HAGLER JOINS BOXING'S IMMORTALS

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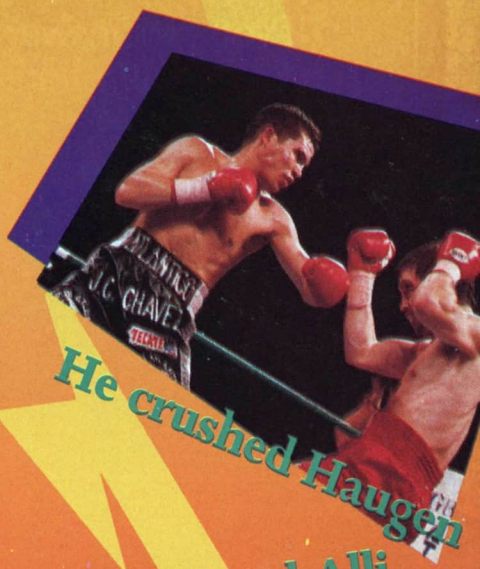
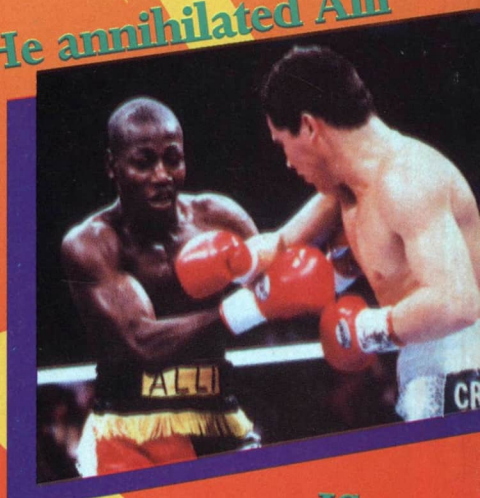


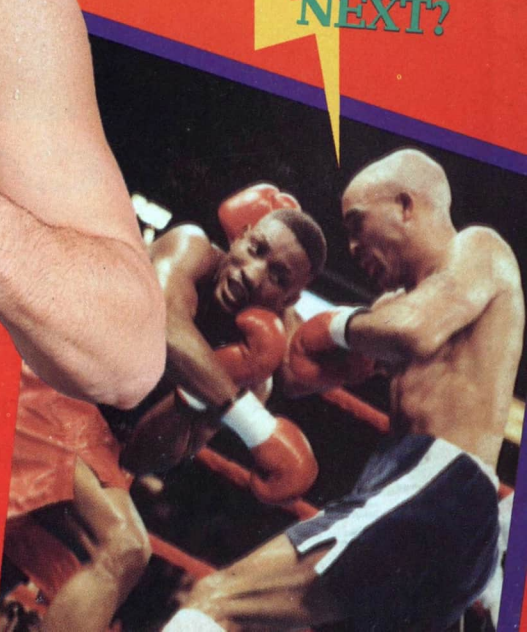
He crushed Haugen

He annihilated Alli



IS PERNELL WHITAKER NEXT?

Julio Cesar CHAVEZ



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2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

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2) Joe Louis
3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

Which man is known as "The Fight Doctor"?

1) Don King
2) Angelo Dundee
3) Ferdie Pacheco
4) Howard Cosell

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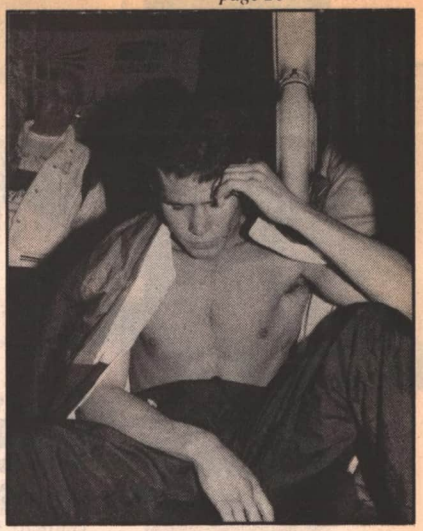

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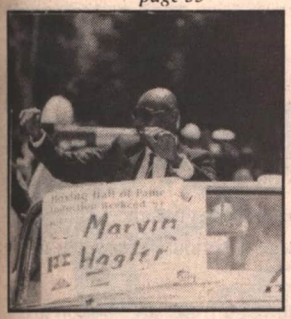

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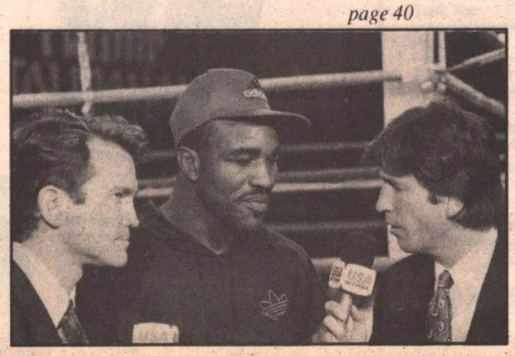

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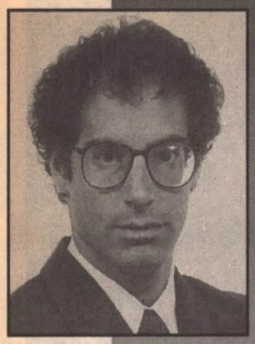


Ringside

I'm not sure what aggravates me more, that Ray Mercer allegedly attempted to bribe Jesse Ferguson, or that so many boxing people quickly dismissed the indictment as frivolous, if not laughable.

Was Mercer really trying to bribe Ferguson during their February 6 bout at Madison Square Garden? Or was he merely talking trash in an effort to con Ferguson into decelerating? I've been asked those questions dozens of times over the past few weeks. I don't know the answers, of course, but *Sports Illustrated's* report on the indictment made me think about the questions in a different light.

An *SI* reporter obtained a copy of the HBO tape that, through audio enhancement, led to the indictment ("Scorecard," July 12, 1993). " ... Mercer sounded like a desperate man ... " *SI* concluded. Among the lines the 1988 gold medal winner delivered to Ferguson during their infighting:

- "Want to go down?"
- "What do you want?"
- "Everyone wins."
- "I swear to God on my mother ... you have to trust me."
- "You got my word, Jess."
- "I can get it for you tomorrow, man. I ain't never lied to you before."

As for the theory that Mercer was only talking trash, *SI* said, "It is difficult to reach that conclusion after listening to the tape."

Obviously, Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau felt the same way.

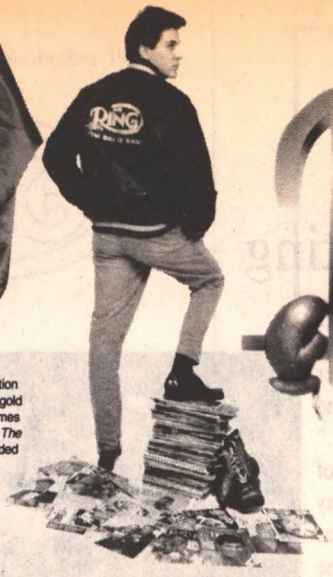
I don't mean to overestimate the significance of *SI's* conclusions; due process guarantees that in due time we'll be able to judge Mercer's intent for ourselves. But the charge is serious, and if you're among those who choose to trivialize it, you're part of boxing's problem.

As a 15-year resident of Bash Boulevard, I've grown accustomed to jumping from exhilaration to embarrassment. It isn't fair that the fight game is almost always portrayed in the darkest of lights. Boxing, however, deserves most of what it gets. You may not like to hear this, but take away the fights and the fighters and boxing *stinks*.

In July, ESPN aired a prime-time installment of the network's Emmy award-winning series *Outside The Lines*. *Boxing: On The Ropes?* examined several issues, including AIDS, corruption, and the sport's murky future. It wasn't the most balanced of pieces—there have to be a *few* reasons why boxing has been an internationally popular sport for more than 100 years. But that doesn't mean the gloom and doom wasn't warranted.

A note to all you ostriches out there: Taking a realistic view of boxing doesn't make you any less of a fan. If Ray Mercer is found guilty, I won't be laughing. And if image is indeed everything, boxing may soon have nothing left.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief



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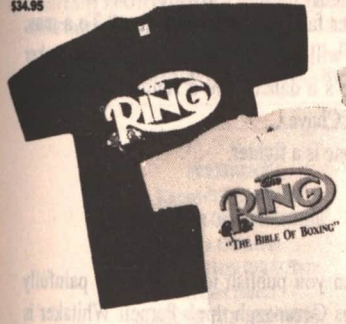

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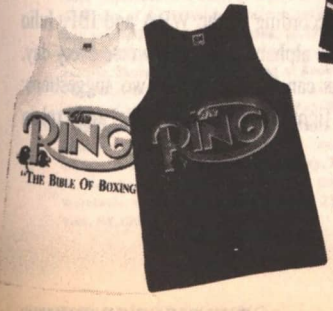

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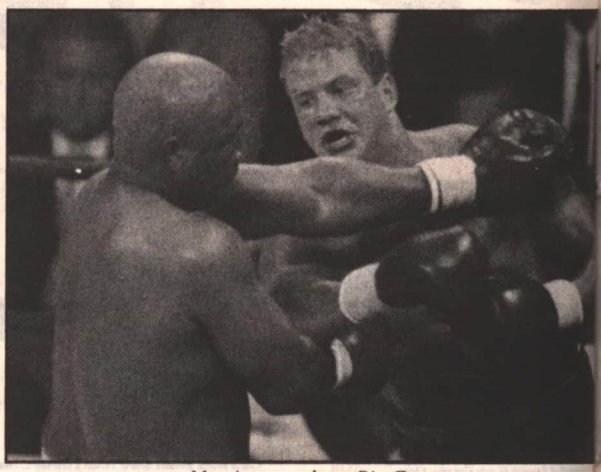
Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

KUDOS FOR THE DUKE

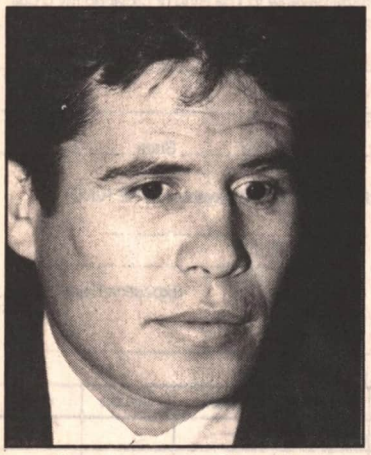
Given Tommy Morrison's win over George Foreman, it would be nice to read something positive about "The Duke." Morrison seems to always be the target of malicious criticism. True, his loss to Ray Mercer didn't help any, and his chin has been questioned since his wins over Joe Hipp and Carl Williams. But Morrison's win over Big George was well-executed. Tommy fought a smart fight, set the pace, and went the distance. But all I heard was that he beat an old man, and that he ran away. I guess he'll just have to continue to impress while ascending the heavyweight ladder.

DAN RICHMOND
N. Syracuse, NY



Morrison cut down Big George

IN SUPPORT OF CHAVEZ



Chavez is ready for "Sweet Pea"

Concerning the letters of Gilliam D. Phipps, Jonathan Kaye, and Douglas Cavanaugh on the Whitaker-Chavez showdown (May 1993): Are they Whitaker fans or non-Chavez fans? To a man, they believe that when Whitaker and Chavez fight, Whitaker will win. They also agree that Whitaker will not score a kayo. How come? Because they know he's a dancer and a runner, a la Hector Camacho. His only chance of winning is to dance away from Chavez.

Everyone who steps into a ring is a boxer. But not everyone is a fighter.

PETE RAMOS
Colton, CA

I really love your magazine, but it makes me sick when you publish letters that are painfully ignorant. I couldn't believe that Jonathan Kaye and Douglas Cavanaugh think Pernell Whitaker is going to beat my countryman, Julio Cesar Chavez. Chavez is in the best condition of his life, as proven by his impressive wins over Greg Haugen and Terrence Alli. Chavez is going to pass right by Whitaker in no more than 10 rounds. Just imagine what will happen when he lands a left hook to the liver. It will be exciting to see Whitaker with a pained expression.

Sorry, Pernell, it's Chavez' time.

CESAR ALBARRAN TORRES
Huixquilucan, Mexico

RATING THE RATINGS

Our access to major international fights is through satellite cable-TV, and THE RING's ratings are an essential element to evaluate the boxers we watch.

The ratings of the different organizations are amazing. For example, according to the WBA and IBF, Julio Cesar Chavez is not among the 10 best junior welterweights in the world. The alphabet soup gets worse every day. THE RING brings rationality and decency to the madness. But your ratings can be improved. Two suggestions: First, add to each fighter's record the number of kayos. Second, indicate the fighter's previous ranking, and explain the changes from month to month.

J. RODRIGUEZ-CANO
Santiago, Chile ■

Volume 72, No. 11 November 1993

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

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Round One

Mercer: Charged with bribery

FROM BAD TO WORSE

All Ray Mercer had to do was beat his former sparring partner, Jesse Ferguson, in their February bout at Madison Square Garden. Awaiting him was a seven-figure payday against WBA/IBF champion Riddick Bowe. But Mercer lost a one-sided decision, and that was only the start of his troubles.

In July, Mercer, 32, was arraigned on charges that, during the fight he offered Ferguson $100,000 to take a dive. A conviction carries a maximum seven-year prison term.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said audio enhancement of an HBO videotape "confirmed Mercer repeatedly attempted to persuade Ferguson to let Mercer win."

At trial, the prosecution's challenge will be to make the charges stick. It is anticipated Mercer's defense will be that he was just talking trash in an effort to con Ferguson into letting up.

Mercer may fight again before his trial. A rematch with Ferguson has been rumored. Ironically, if he is acquitted, Mercer's dying career will receive a boost. Nothing like the thrill of victory.

—Eric Karabell

Sulaiman: Grilled by ESPN

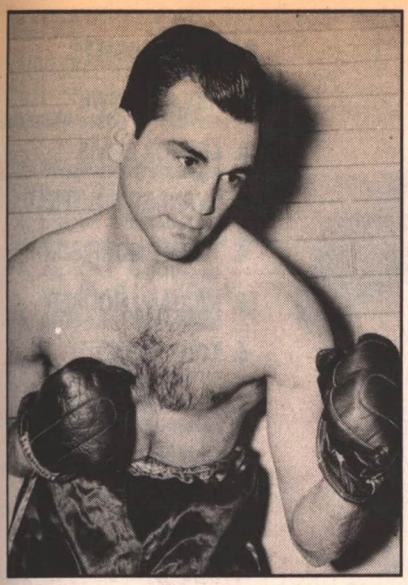
THE INSIDE ON THE OUTSIDE

ESPN tackled tough issues when it presented *Outside The Lines: Boxing—On The Ropes?* Hosted by Charley Steiner and Bob Ley, the prime-time special, which aired on July 14, focused on why boxing could be headed the wrong way down a one-way street.

The highlight was the show's only upbeat segment, a feature on frantic Louise Pazienza, the mother of middleweight contender Vinny Pazienza. The rest of the hour was well-researched and produced, but cramped. There was a look at boxing's power structure, with vague references to the promoters who run the sport; a report on AIDS that centered on Ruben Palacio, who, earlier this year, tested HIV-positive; and profiles of a pair of clubfighting heavyweights, Greg Gorrell and Tim Tomashek, who explained their reasons for fighting and the difficulty in retiring.

Ley's interview with WBC President Jose Sulaiman, which dealt with his relationship with Don King, was particularly revealing. So was most of the show. Here's to hoping there's a part II.

—Eric Karabell



Scalzo was an NBA featherweight champ

PETEY SCALZO: 1917-1993

Former featherweight champion Petey Scalzo died in Florida in late-June following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 75.

A native of Manhattan's West Side, Scalzo caught the boxing bug while watching all-time greats Barney Ross and Tony Canzoneri work out at the famed Stillman's Gym. He turned pro after winning a New York Golden Gloves title in 1936, and was proclaimed NBA featherweight champion in May 1940, when titlist Joey Archibald, whom Scalzo had kayoed in a non-title bout, reneged on an agreement to give the New Yorker a shot. Scalzo made two defenses before losing the title to Richie Lemos in July 1941.

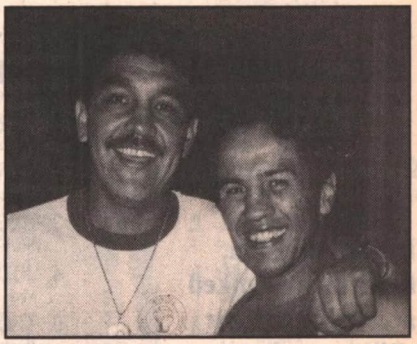
Scalzo fought until 1943, when he retired after suffering a knockout loss to lightweight champion Bob Montgomery. His record: 90-15-5 (46), with 1 no-contest. He later became a referee in his home state.

In the New York *Daily News*, Bill Gallo wrote, "I'm glad I knew Petey when he was that happy-go-lucky guy, always trying to make his friends laugh. A blithe spirit, Petey was a bonus."

THE PUNCHLINE

"I'm ready for you, [Vinny] Pazienza. Keep talking and jumping around like the clown you are. Let's just sign the contract and get it on and quit talking all the garbage. In the ropes, I'm going to destroy you."

—Robert Duran after winning a 10-round decision vs. Jacques LeBlanc.



Chacon (right) with Mando Ramos in 1990

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former two-division champion **Bobby Chacon** was located unharmed in San Manuel, Arizona, three days after his estranged wife had reported him missing. Chacon, 41, walked into the sheriff's office and said he had been hiding out due to marital problems ... A worthwhile comeback: Promoter **Bob Arum** is considering running cards at the famed Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Same for promoter **Dan Goossen**. The Olympic, boarded up since 1985, has been undergoing restoration ... Former heavyweight contender **Marvis Frazier** is seeking a post on the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. ■

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
July 16, 1993

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

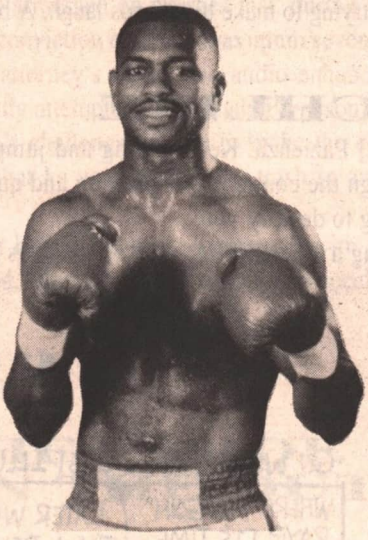
Ratings By The Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD 34-0 *(WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England 23-0 *(WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Atlanta, GA 29-1
4. **TOMMY MORRISON** — Merriam, KS 36-1
5. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI 33-0
6. **TONY TUBBS** — Redondo Beach, CA 34-4
7. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Marshall, TX 72-4
8. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL 22-5
9. **RAZOR RUDDOCK** — Canada 27-4-1
10. **FRANK BRUNO** — England 36-3

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL 22-0 *(IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL 28-2 *(WBC Champ)*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX 34-2-1 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands 46-2
5. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX 28-2
6. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC 25-1
7. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA 22-2
8. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI 34-5
9. **CHRIS PYATT** — England 37-3
10. **FREDERIC SEILLIER** — France 33-4-2



Roy Jones

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

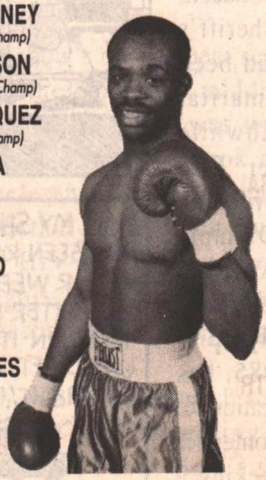
1. **TERRY NORRIS** — Mission Valley, CA 35-3 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ** — Argentina 43-1 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI** — Italy 57-3 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA 28-0
5. **VERNON PHILLIPS** — New York, NY 19-5
6. **GILBERT DELE** — France 33-3-1
7. **CARL DANIELS** — St. Louis, MO 30-1
8. **AARON DAVIS** — Bronx, NY 38-1
9. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI** — France 24-1
10. **SIMON BROWN** — Germantown, MD 37-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **GOYO VARGAS** — Mexico 29-3-1 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **TOM JOHNSON** — Detroit, MI 31-2-1 *(IBF Champ)*
3. **YUNG KYUN PARK** — South Korea 24-1-1 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **PAUL HODKINSON** — England 22-2-1
5. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA** — San Antonio, TX 26-0-1
6. **KEVIN KELLEY** — Flushing, NY 35-0
7. **LUISITO ESPINOSA** — Philippines 31-6
8. **COLIN McMILLAN** — England 23-2
9. **FRANCISCO SEGURA** — Coachella, CA 22-6
10. **BABY SUGAR ROJAS** — Colombia 37-6-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** — Las Vegas, NV 23-0-1 *(IBF Champ)*
2. **TRACY PATTERSON** — Highland, NY 47-2-1 *(WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ** — Puerto Rico 37-6-3 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **WELCOME NCITA** — South Africa 31-1
5. **JESUS SALUD** — San Diego, CA 44-5
6. **JULIO GERVACIO** — Puerto Rico 26-3-2
7. **RUDY ZAVALA** — Rosemead, CA 21-1-2
8. **JESSE BENAVIDES** — Corpus Christi, TX 36-3-1
9. **LUIS MENDOZA** — Colombia 34-4-2
10. **DUKE McKENZIE** — England 33-4



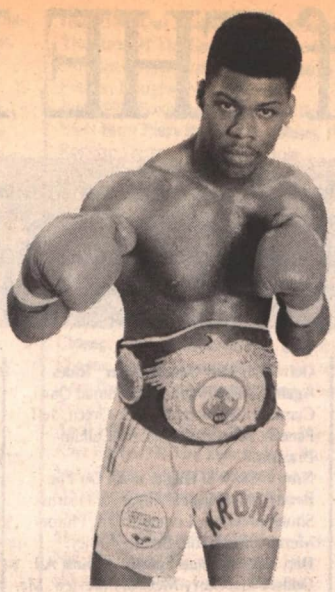
Tracy Patterson

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Laredo, TX 34-1-1 *(IBF Champ)*
2. **JUNIOR JONES** — Brooklyn, NY 29-0
3. **ELIECER JULIO** — Colombia 23-0 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **JUNG IL BYUN** — South Korea 10-0 *(WBC Champ)*
5. **VICTOR RABANALES** — Mexico 33-11-2
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI** — Japan 8-1-1
7. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE** — Puerto Rico 15-0
8. **EDDIE COOK** — Las Vegas, NV 18-2
9. **ISRAEL CONTRERAS** — Venezuela 35-3-1
10. **HAROLD MESTRE** — Colombia 16-2

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France 39-2 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA 36-3
3. **BOBBY CZYZ**
   Montgomery County, NJ 40-5 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY 22-1 *(IBF Champ)*
5. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Las Vegas, NV 19-1-1
6. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA 22-3
7. **AKIM TAFER**
   France 17-3
8. **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
   Argentina 31-3
9. **ROBERT DANIELS**
   Miami, FL 24-2-1
10. **MASSIMILIANO DURAN**
    Italy 19-4



Leeonzer Barber

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 35-1 *(WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany 20-0 *(IBF Champ)*
3. **JEFF HARDING**
   Australia 23-1 *(WBC Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
   Mansfield, OH 34-5-2
5. **LEEONZER BARBER**
   Detroit, MI 17-1
6. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY 44-2-1
7. **FRANK TATE**
   Houston, TX 32-3
8. **IRAN BARKLEY**
   Bronx, NY 30-8
9. **ERNESTO MAGDALENO**
   Westminster, CA 15-0-1
10. **EGERTON MARCUS**
    Canada 11-0

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI 38-0-2 *(IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA 41-1 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England 36-0
4. **NIGEL BENN**
   England 34-2 *(WBC Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI 23-0
6. **VICTOR CORDOBA**
   N. Ireland 19-5-2
7. **DARRIN VAN HORN**
   Lexington, KY 53-3
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ 32-5-1
9. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA 23-1
10. **ANTOINE BYRD**
    Los Angeles, CA 23-4-1

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

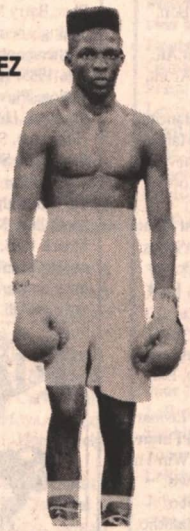
1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 32-1 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland 29-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 20-0 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY 58-3-1
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 47-0
6. **STEPHAN JOHNSON**
   Brooklyn, NY 23-4-1
7. **DAVID GONZALEZ**
   Houston, TX 33-2-1
8. **LARRY BARNES**
   Mt. Vernon, NY 28-1
9. **SANTOS CARDONA**
   Puerto Rico 27-3
10. **KEVIN POMPEY**
    Troy, NY 28-4-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 87-0 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina 62-2-2 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY 29-1 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 9-0
5. **ZACK PADILLA**
   Azusa, CA 17-1-1
6. **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 36-1
7. **TERRENCE ALLI**
   Linden, NJ 52-8-2
8. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Tarzana, CA 25-2
9. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Morristown, TN 47-2-1
10. **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
    Las Vegas, NV 44-9

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 28-0 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL 34-17-4 *(IBF Champ)*
3. **DINGAAN THOBELA**
   South Africa 29-1-1 *(WBA Champ)*
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 36-1
5. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Takoma Park, MD 29-0
6. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA 42-4-1
7. **TRACY SPANN**
   Plainfield, NJ 27-2-1
8. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME 31-1
9. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France 44-4-2
10. **MIGUEL JULIO**
    Colombia 23-1-1


Calvin Grove

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana 36-2-1 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 28-0-1 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico 32-3 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **CALVIN GROVE**
   Coatesville, PA 43-5
5. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 33-2
6. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA 8-0
7. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina 34-1-1
8. **RENATO CORNETT**
   Australia 23-1-1
9. **REGILIO TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY 32-3-1
10. **MANUEL MEDINA**
    Mexico 47-5

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   South Korea 20-1 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan 21-0 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico 19-4 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand 43-3
5. **ROBERT QUIROGA**
   San Antonio, TX 20-1
6. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
   Denmark 18-0
7. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 25-0
8. **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
   Italy 24-5-3
9. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico 35-5-2
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico 21-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan 15-0 *(WBC Champ)*
2. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela 16-1 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
   Thailand 14-0 *(IBF Champ)*
4. **RODOLFO BLANCO**
   Colombia 26-7-1
5. **DAVE McAULEY**
   Ireland 18-3-2
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA 33-3-1
7. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico 23-11-2
8. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 14-1
9. **SCOTTY OLSON**
   Las Vegas, NV 24-1
10. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
    Jasper, TN 9-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ 27-0 *(WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **MYUNG WOO YUH**
   South Korea 37-1 *(WBA Champ)*
3. **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 35-2
4. **LEON SALAZAR**
   Panama 15-3-1
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 35-4-3
6. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
   Japan 16-0-1
7. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico 26-2-1
8. **DOMINGO SOSA**
   Dominican Republic 19-1
9. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico 19-5
10. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
    Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Junior Welterweight
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
3. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
4. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
5. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
6. **JAMES TONEY**
   Super Middleweight
7. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Junior Flyweight
8. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **ROY JONES**
   Middleweight
10. **AZUMAH NELSON**
    Junior Lightweight

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APRIL 1985

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

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April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

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Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

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Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

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Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

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May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

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Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

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April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

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Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen . . . Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman. Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).

July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl At The Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

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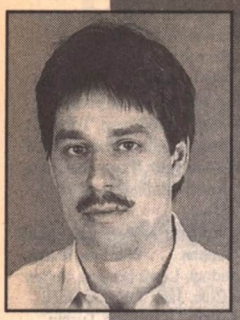


By Jeff Ryan

Ryan Out Loud

BLACK, WHITE, WRONG, & RIGHT

The news that Tommy Morrison is going to get $8-million to face Lennox Lewis has people talking about color again. And the heavyweight division is a very colorful place, albeit for too many of the wrong reasons. A lot of the talent is green. Riddick Bowe appears yellow. There is an Olympic golden boy, but because he is British, his credibility is whitewashed. And too much silly posturing has resulted in the biggest fight the division can make ending up, well, marooned.

Nowhere over the rainbow is there a Wizard of Oz who holds the solution to all these problems. (An Oz Ocasio is the closest it gets.) In toto, things are not great.

Lewis calls Bowe "Tin Man," saying the WBA-IBF king has no heart. Bowe thinks Lewis is cowardly lyin'. So when Morrison recently touched down like a tornado—all right, so maybe he was more like a mild breeze while blowing off George Foreman—the heavyweight landscape brightened in a lot of people's eyes. Morrison-Lewis was quickly made, and the yellow brick road was cleared of some of its gridlock.

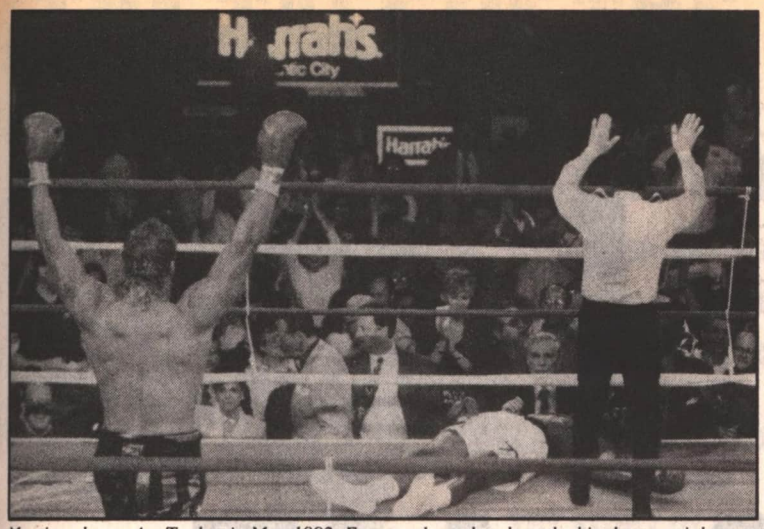
Tommy, we're not in Kansas (City) anymore. We're on our way to Las Vegas, and then you're taking the connecting flight to Fort Knox.

"Morrison is getting $8-million because he's white," the horrified masses protest, "and this is *terrible*." They are half-right. "The Duke" *is* getting $8-million because he's white. But this is hardly a crime against nature. Watching Bowe fight Michael Dokes or Lewis square off with Tony Tucker in a heavyweight title fight, *that* is the definition of terrible.

Morrison and co-manager Bill Cayton are looking forward to a try at WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis—and an $8-million payday. No matter who Morrison gets, he'll make plenty.

The fact that Morrison, primarily because he looks like Mr. Mid-America, will soon be able to do bicep curls with his wallet is not a topic to debate in some sociology class. It is more like the subject of a lecture in Economics 101.

The fight game's financial structure is an intricate network of ironies and seemingly unworkable principles, the most glaring one being that a sport dominated by minorities is, in this age of astronomical purses, dependent upon the support of the mainstream for its prosperity. There are so few even moderately talented white guys in trunks that if some pale face with a punch and no paunch takes two baby steps up the heavyweight ladder, ticket buyers go ga-



Morrison kayos Art Tucker in May 1992. Even moderately talented white heavyweights are instantly marketable. Should The Duke win the title, he'll be a moneymaking machine.

it is your ethnic group is acceptable. But rooting for your race strictly because it is your race is not.

If Buffalo Martin told Julio Cesar Chavez in the corner, "Win it for the Mexican people," we'd praise the trainer's appeal to Chavez' enormous ethnic pride. But if Kevin Rooney told Vinny Pazienza, "Suck it up for the white kids watching," he'd have to don a flak jacket and a helmet before again ever facing the media.

Turning on the radio talkshows the day after Morrison-Lewis was announced meant listening to one politically correct jerk after another come out against the "racism" in boxing (i.e. Morrison's purse). Too many people who cover boxing are hung up on race even though, ironically, the fight game could serve as a model for race relations in sports. Look around. Minorities are in seats of enormous power. People of all colors work together with few problems arising. Trainers and fighters of mixed races are forever describing their "father-son" relationships. White fans adore Foreman. Black fans love Bobby Czyz. And so on.

ga. It's the law of $upply and demand.

Morrison is going to make $8-million, but at least he will be fighting someone good, someone very good. George Foreman pocketed an obscene *$15-million* for facing the trio of Jimmy Ellis, Alex Stewart, and Pierre Coetzer. That, too, was a matter of supply and demand. Folk hero/living legend/powerhitter patriots were in short supply, and the boxing climate called for one. So Foreman got to dictate the terms.

Promoters know white fans would like to see one of their own gain the sport's grandest prize, or at least a share of it. If the hero wins it from a black man, better yet, for a blow to the stereotype of white guys not being able to fight is as long overdue as a head feint in a Frank Bruno bout.

White people have a tendency to like white fighters, often for reasons that are only skin-deep. This is not a confirmation that America is spiraling toward self-destruction. It is human nature. Black people like black fighters. So what? You shouldn't be labeled an Archie Bunker or Al Sharpton or walk around feeling guilty if you're rooting for your own kind just because he is that—your own kind.

If you're black and paying your cable operator $29.95 *only* because you want to be there when this white hotshot gets a bloody reminder of the great tradition of black heavyweight kings, fine. Ten years ago I walked out of a showing of *Rocky III* and listened to two black guys tell the white theater-goers, "The white man only wins in the movies." If a white fan buys Morrison-Lewis for the sole reason of seeing *that* perception knocked silly with a left hook, why is that so bad?

If there is a racial double-standard at work in boxing, it is this: Rooting for your ethnic group strictly *because*

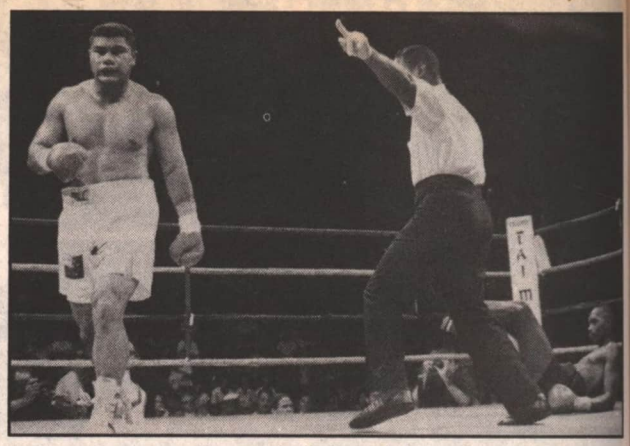
The sweet science has no shortage of dumbbells. (And we're not talking about the equipment scattered about the floor of Evander Holyfield's weight room.) And yet you don't see an Al Campanis on the scene talking about "necessities" that are lacking, no Jimmy the Greek waxing ineloquently about breeding. Don King often says stupid things about color, but King says stupid things about everything, so no offense is taken.

Don't get mad at the purse Morrison is receiving. Get mad at the purses Bowe and Lewis are *not* receiving. If they signed to fight each other, they'd make far more than The Duke's $8-million. The Bowe-Lewis matchup simmers on a low boil, and fight enthusiasts suffer with hunger pangs, but Rock Newman and Frank Maloney have stolen the clapper from the dinner bell. Morrison-Lewis is something to prevent all of us from starving to death.

If Morrison can lure people to their TV sets, then he is worth what he is being paid. And if you're sitting in front of one of those sets only because you want to see the overdue coronation of a white heavyweight champion, or desire to watch a black man keep alive a great winning streak for his people, don't apologize.

You're not a racist or a bigot, just somebody with a sense of pride and identity. Show your true colors—and, if you want to, cheer passionately for them, too.■

New Faces



Tua steamrolls Bruce Johnson

David Tua

Heavyweight

By Robert Cassidy

David Tua always misses home. During his travels he finds himself yearning for the serenity of New Zealand and the support of his family. As an amateur, even an overnight trip to another part of New Zealand made him homesick.

When Tua signed a pro contract with managers Lou Duva and Shelly Finkel, it was no wonder that his mother insisted upon a clause stipulating her son have the opportunity to return home three times a year. However, Tua, who now lives and trains in Houston, knows the longer he stays away from home, the more likely he'll return as New Zealand's first heavyweight champion.

"Living in the United States has dramatically changed everything in my life," said the unbeaten heavyweight. "But they are good changes. Everything is working out very good, and falling into place."

Tua was born in Faleatiu, the smallest island in Western Samoa. During his childhood, the population was less than 300, and, with seven brothers and a sister, his family accounted for a considerable percentage.

"When I traveled and I needed company and comfort," said Tua, "the good Lord has always been there with me."

When Tua was 11, his family moved to Auckland, New Zealand, where he began to box. His father, Tuavale, a former pro middleweight, sought grown men from the village to spar with his precocious son. When Tuavale couldn't

(Continued on page 56)

PRO RECORD

1992		
Dec. 1	Ron Hume, Virginia Beach, VA	KO 1
Dec. 15	Lorenzo Poole, Ledyard, CT	KO 1
1993		
Feb. 6	Bruce Kelly, New York City	KO 3
Feb. 27	Lazaro Almanza, Atlantic City	KO 3
Mar. 23	Alfredo Nevarez, San Antonio	KO 1
May 28	Willie Washington, Houston	KO 1
June 22	Bruce Johnson, Atlantic City	KO 2
July 10	Larry Davis, Bushkill, PA	KO 1

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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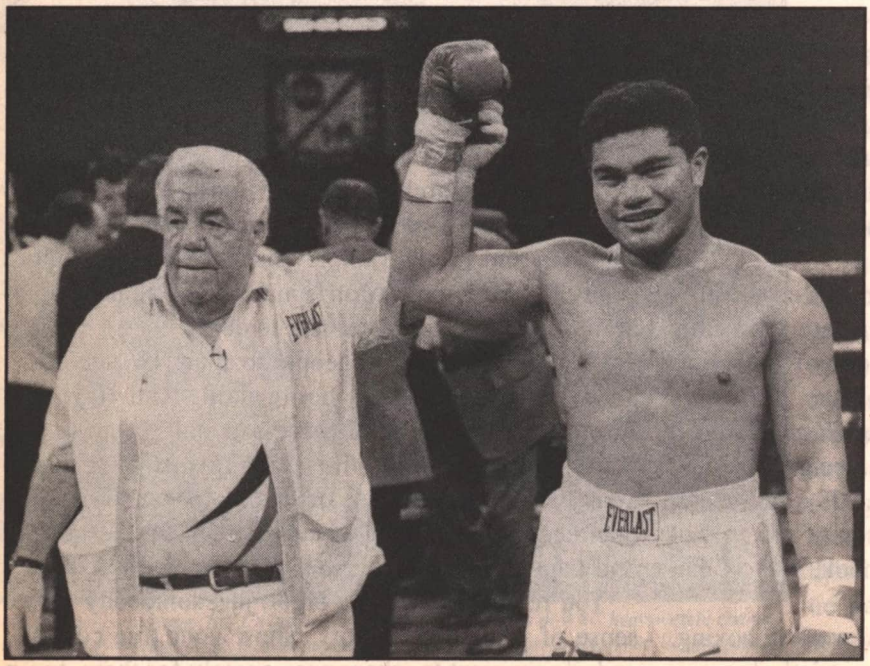

Duva hopes Tua is another Tyson

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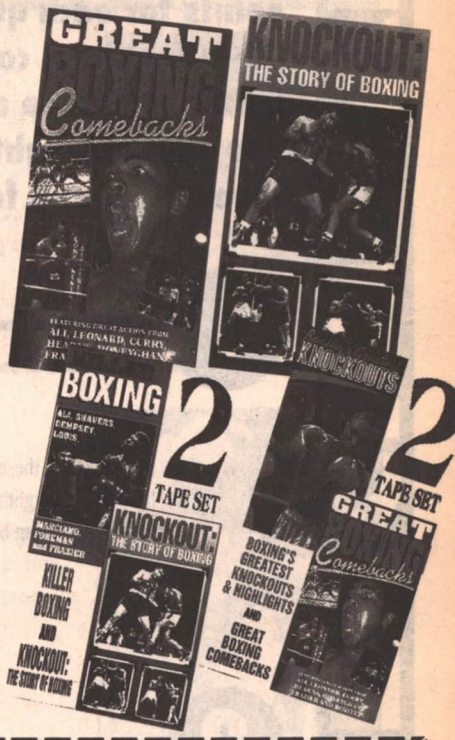

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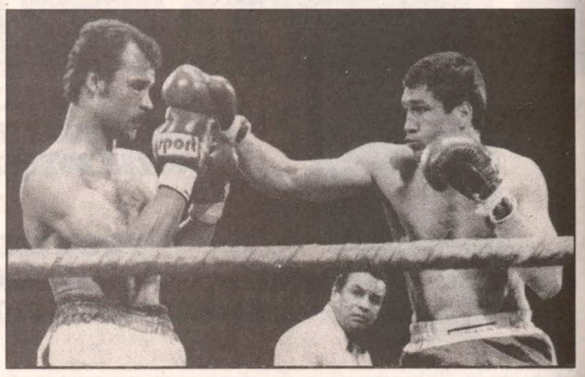
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

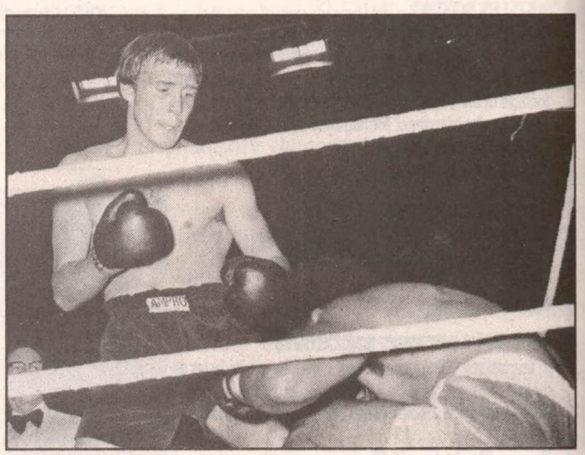
1

In June 1978, these champions fought for the light heavyweight title, with the 175-pounder on the right winning by split decision.



2

About a year after crushing Tony Garcia, this Londoner won the world welterweight title by upsetting an all-time great.



3

The fighter on the left is Lou Brouillard. His opponent (in 1937) was a middleweight champion best known for crying foul.

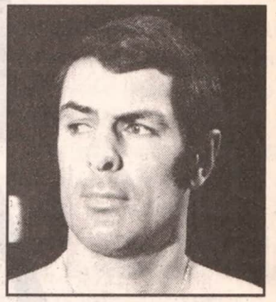
YOUR BOXING IQ

4

This Frenchman was dethroned only two years ago. He was a sharp boxer, as is his brother, a world-rated light heavyweight.

5

This Spaniard lost only one of his first 106 bouts. He won the world title in a controversial battle and lost it only three months later.

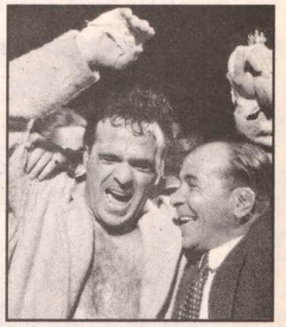


6

Once in a while we give you a no-brainer. This featherweight, whose left hook could ruin a man, became a symbol for peace. Now he works as a TV commentator.

7

This middleweight might have been the most popular European fighter in history. Unfortunately, his career was cut short by tragedy.

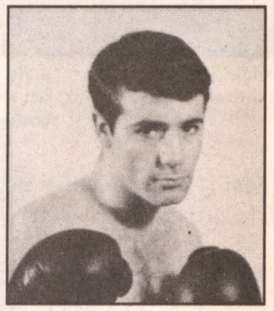


8

Scotland has produced its share of world champions, including this plucky flyweight, who wore the world crown for six months.

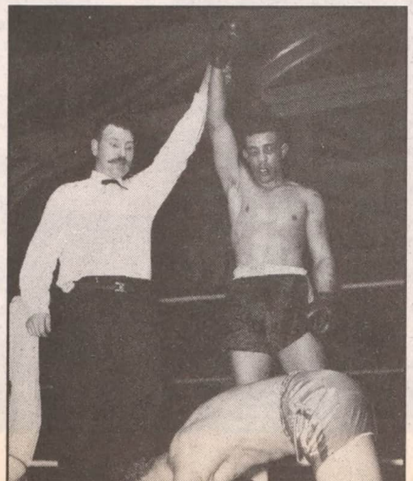
9

Primo Carnera may be the most famous Italian-born champion of all-time, but he wasn't the best. This 154-pounder was an underrated fighter who lost the world title to one of his countrymen.



10

Eddie Marcano was hardly the most famous opponent of this Briton's career. After all, not too many fighters can claim to have beaten the best boxer of them all.

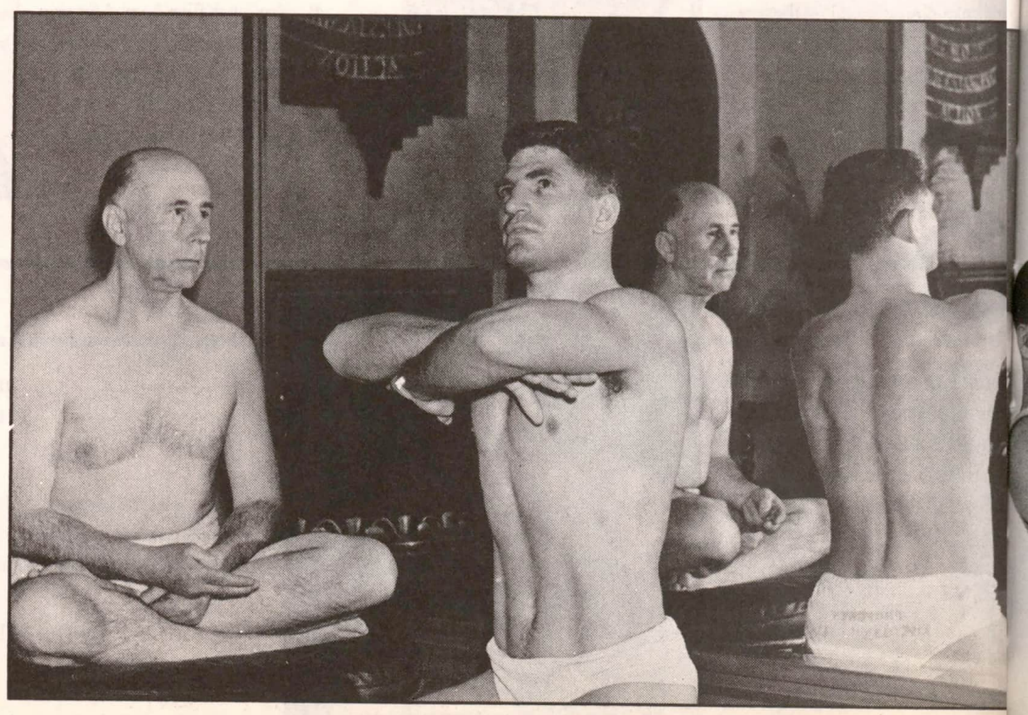


ANSWERS:

1) John Conteh & Mate Parlov
2) John Stracey
3) Marcel Thil
4) Chris Tiozzo
5) Pedro Carrasco
6) Barry McGuigan
7) Marcel Cerdan
8) Walter McGowan
9) Sandro Mazzinghi
10) Randy Turpin

Boxing's Bizarre Training Tricks

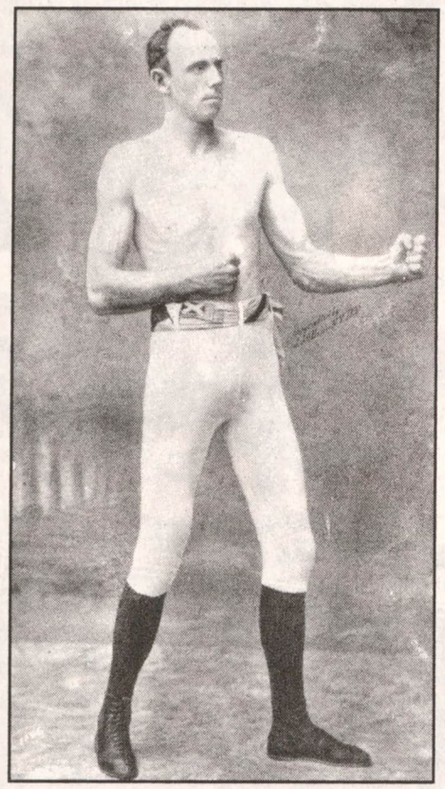
THERE'S A MADNESS TO THE METHOD



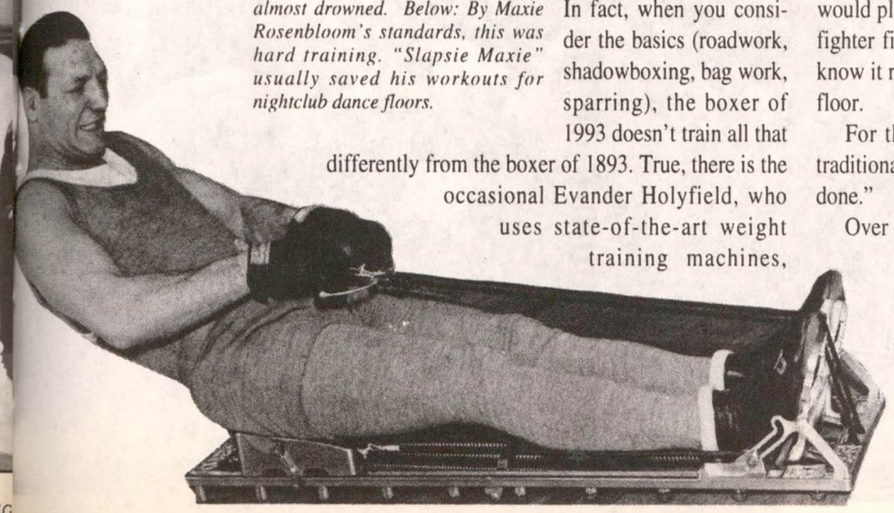
This wasn't a posed publicity shot; Lou Nova really trained by practicing yoga.

BY ALAN SHELTON

Stick your jump rope back in the closet. Unhook your heavybag before it ruins your ceiling. Don't waste $70 on a new pair of running shoes. Allow us to recommend some different methods of training. We'll start by having you catch flies with your bare hands. Then we'll move over to the farm, where you'll dodge some mule kicks and pick off the jabs and hooks of a bear. Then over to the butcher shop, where you'll punch a string of sausages.



Above: Bob Fitzsimmons won three world titles with the help of mules, bears, and a fantasy in which he almost drowned. Below: By Maxie Rosenbloom's standards, this was hard training. "Slapsie Maxie" usually saved his workouts for nightclub dance floors.



Ridiculous methods? Perhaps. Revolutionary? Hardly. Some of them are more than 50 years old. Whether publicity stunts or legitimate exercises, they've been used by famous and not-so-famous boxers, and they've made training camp a bit less predictable.

While boxing is among the oldest of sports, training techniques have seldom varied. In fact, when you consider the basics (roadwork, shadowboxing, bag work, sparring), the boxer of 1993 doesn't train all that differently from the boxer of 1893. True, there is the occasional Evander Holyfield, who uses state-of-the-art weight training machines, runs sprints, and stretches with the help of both a fitness guru and ballet instructor, but for the most part, fighters and trainers have maintained an if-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it mentality.

In the late-1800s, heavyweight champion James J. Corbett drew quizzical looks when he became the first fighter to incorporate shadowboxing into his daily workout. Not all new methods, however, have been so readily accepted. Especially those that have been tailored to the needs of individual boxers.

Recalls legendary trainer Angelo Dundee: "I saw Charlie Goldman train Rocky Marciano, and he corrected his balance with a piece of string tied between Rocky's legs, which restricted his movement."

Joe Louis followed all of trainer Jack Blackburn's instructions. Even when the "Brown Bomber" was told to catch flies with his bare hands.

Another unorthodox method Dundee saw work: In order to teach a short, compact left hook, a trainer would place a book under his fighter's left arm. If the fighter fired his hook with too much of an arc, he'd know it right away because the book would fall to the floor.

For the most part, however, Dundee remains a traditionalist. "Bizarre," he says, "doesn't get the job done."

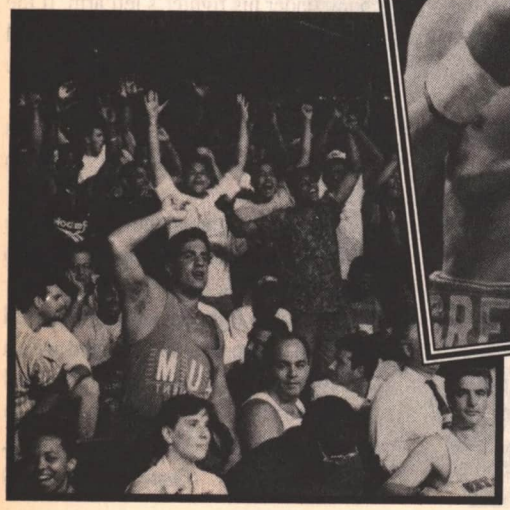
Over the years, creative fighters and trainers have invented artificial handicaps to develop particular skills. Jack Dempsey knew he needed to fight out of a pronounced crouch, so he trained in a shed with a four-foot high ceiling. If he raised himself up, he paid the price in lumps. Howie Albert, who handled,

(Continued on page 57)

FUNERAL ON EIGHTH AVENUE

Closing the Garden party, promising middleweight Julio Cesar Green punished Ricky Thomas (below) and reminded his rabid New York fans (below left) just how exciting boxing can be.

Photos By Al Bello



THE LAST BOXING SHOW AT THE GARDEN

By John Scheinman

Like a good soldier, the tight-knit boxing fraternity kept its chin up as Madison Square Garden's fighting unit staged battle one last time.

The Garden and the history of boxing are so intertwined that in many ways the arena is the sport itself. Some of boxing's greatest moments and brightest stars have played there. But mystique and reverence don't add up to dollars and cents, and the landlords at Paramount Communications decided to evict their most famous tenant. After all, why finance an entire department so a few Hispanic and black kids can spill their blood and guts for 2,000 people once a month when you can sell out 5,600 seats over 16 nights for highbrow stuff like Simon & Garfunkel?

Whatever reason you believe caused the end of Garden boxing—you can be sure it was a combination of things—let this sink in: It's over.

On July 8, the Garden boxing department put on its final show, a ho-hum five-bout card for 1,706 fans at the Garden's adjacent junior arena, The Paramount (formerly the Felt Forum).

Nothing particularly memorable happened, and if you hadn't read the local papers or ventured down to ringside among the hard-cores, you might not even have known you were at a funeral. Overprotected house fighters Aaron Davis and Kevin Kelley scored second-round kayos. Talented lightweight Juan "El Flaco" Negron won a violent exchange of left hooks and knocked out Peter Nieves in the eighth round. And middleweight Julio Cesar Green, who makes the fans crazy, stopped journeyman Ricky Thomas in the fifth.

A trivia question of the future: Who scored the final knockout on a Garden-promoted show? Answer: middleweight Lonnie Bradley, with a first-round left hook. It was fitting that Bradley's opponent, Marcel Huffaker, is nicknamed "Bedtime"; he helped lay the Garden to rest.

As is the case with many unacceptable deaths, there was denial during the last show, and in some cases even optimism.

"My prediction is this place will be open again in 1995," said New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon. "This place can't do without it. Why? Image. You'll see boxing back here in a year-and-a-half."

Bobby Goodman, the head of Garden boxing, vows to carry on outside his digs at Two Penn Plaza. People, he reported, hadn't been offering condolences.

"They wanna know when we're going to get back, and what we're going to be doing," Goodman said. "I'm going to hit the ground running in September. I just don't know where yet. [It has been rumored that Goodman will hook up with Dan Duva's Main Events and bring most of the Garden fighters with him.] If it's feasible to do it here in

(Continued on page 59)

Only minutes after the final fight was over, the historic Garden ring was being dismantled for the last time. The final card was just ho-hum for the 1,706 fans.

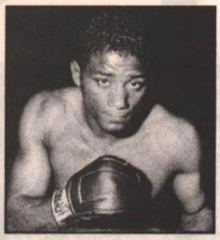
BATTLE of the LEGENDS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*

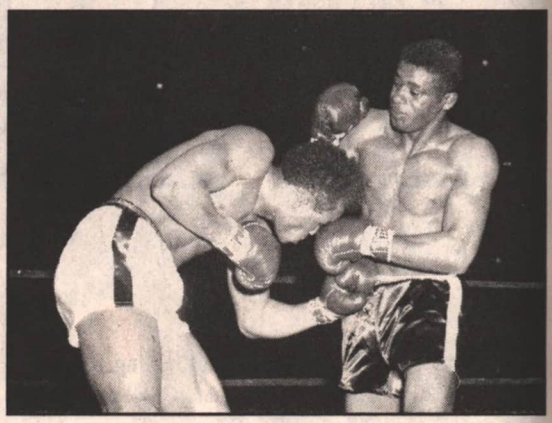
Floyd Patterson

Waco, North Carolina
Career: 1952-1972
55-8-1 with 40 kayos



Patterson's place in history depends on how you choose to remember him. At age 21, he was the youngest heavyweight champion in history (until Mike Tyson broke his record), and in 1960 he became the first fighter to regain the title. But he was also twice stopped in the first round by Sonny Liston, frequently floored by lesser fighters, and humiliated in a 1965 loss to Muhammad Ali.

The prized protege of Cus D'Amato, Patterson was a quick-fisted heavyweight with surprising power and a peekaboo defense. He won a gold medal at the 1952 Olympics, then captured the vacant world heavyweight title by stopping 42-year-old Archie Moore in 1956. He made four successful defenses, suffered a shocking kayo loss to Ingemar Johansson, crushed the Swede in the rematch, and registered another defense before meeting Liston. He remains one of the most popular former champions in ring history.



Patterson's first defense of the heavyweight crown was a 10th-round stoppage of number-one contender Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson in July 1957. Patterson's career had good and bad times.

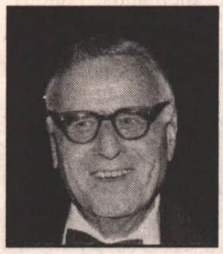
Ken Norton

Jacksonville, Illinois
Career: 1967-1981
42-7-1 with 33 kayos

Like Patterson, Norton was either very, very good or very, very bad; good enough to go toe to toe vs. Larry Holmes and extend Muhammad Ali during their three-bout series, and bad enough to last a total of three rounds in bouts against George Foreman and Earnie Shavers.

A body-beautiful with heavy hands, an unorthodox style, and underrated boxing ability, Norton first gained the spotlight by breaking Ali's jaw during a 1973 decision win. He failed in his first two tries at the title, losing to Foreman by second-round kayo in 1974 and Ali on points in '76. After outpointing Jimmy Young in November 1977, Norton, the top-rated contender, was declared WBC champion. (Leon Spinks was stripped for refusing to defend against him.) In his first defense, he lost a split decision to Holmes in one of the greatest heavyweight bouts of all-time. He never again contended, and ended his career with a first-round knockout loss to Gerry Cooney in 1981.

JACK FISKE



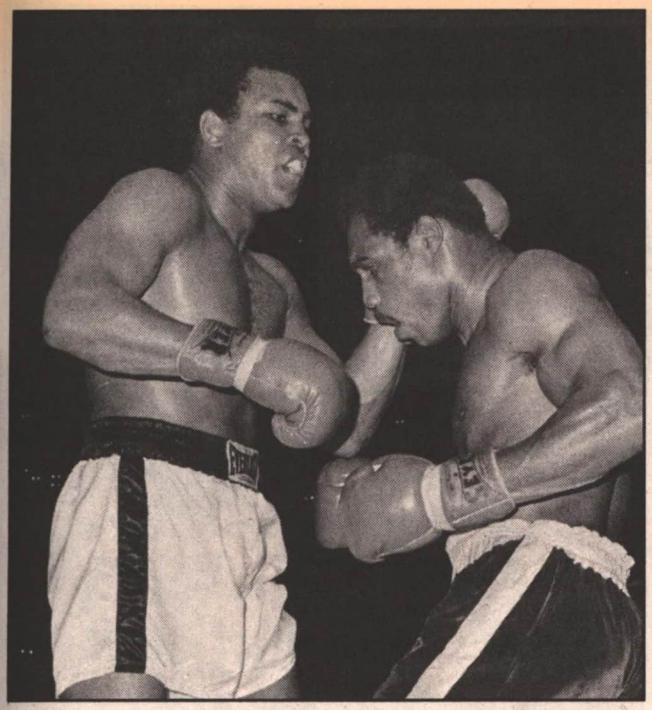
I don't think Patterson would enter the ring with the same outlook he had against Liston and Ali. In fact, it might be that Norton would have the negative approach that he showed against George Foreman. Except for the first meeting with Ali, Norton didn't win the big ones.

Norton suffered from letdowns in the late-going of his most important fights. He almost beat Muhammad Ali in their second and third fights but had lapses in the final round of each match. His career-best performance was against Larry Holmes, but the 15th round cost him the decision.

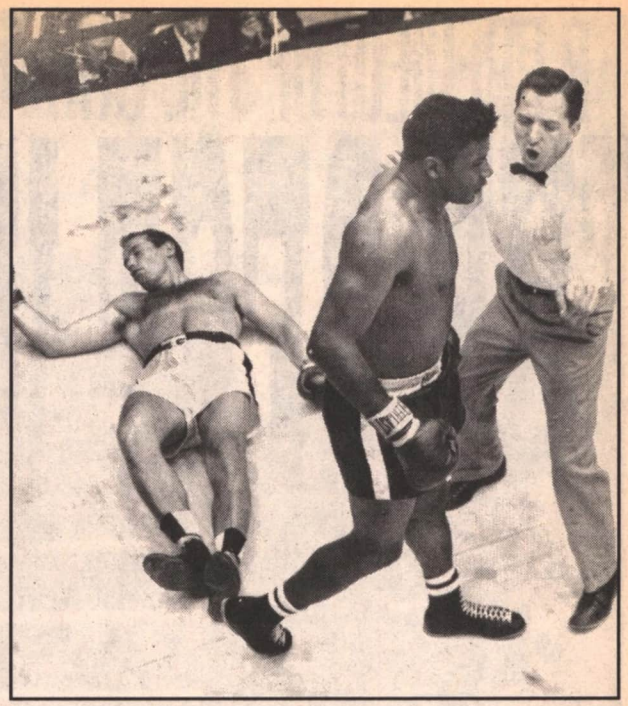
This matchup would pit Patterson's greater hand speed against Norton's harder punching. Patterson would attack in a crouch to offset his physical disadvantages, slip punches, and get out of range. Norton could not outbox Floyd, and he'd go for the knockout. At some point, Norton would reach Floyd's fragile chin and floor him. But Floyd would get up, as he usually did.

Patterson would have Norton reeling and off-balance most of the fight. Patterson by unanimous decision.

Jack Fiske is the dean of American boxing writers. He writes a column for the San Francisco Chronicle.



The victory that gave Norton an international reputation was his March 1973 upset decision over former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali.



When Patterson scored a fifth-round kayo of Ingemar Johansson in June 1960, he became the first heavyweight in history to regain the world title.

DON TURNER

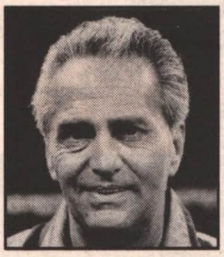
I saw Patterson develop from the 1952 Olympics to the world title. He would've been a very good heavyweight in any era. He wasn't particularly well-taught, but speed makes up for a lot of mistakes. He threw a lot of shots and beat you to the punch. Speed is power, and he had the fastest hands of any heavyweight up to that point, except for Joe Louis. He also had tremendous courage; Sonny Liston just had his number, that's all.

Norton was good, but not as good as Patterson. He was strong, a good puncher, and he had Muhammad Ali's number because he crowded him. Norton didn't move well, and he couldn't move backwards. That back leg was always so stiff, and he dragged it. He could've been a lot better than he was, but he was a partier. And Patterson wasn't.

Patterson only knew one way—the peekaboo defense and a lot of combinations. Norton would stalk him, with his arms crossed, a la Archie Moore, whom Patterson knocked out. Patterson's hands would be too fast. He had more fire than Norton, and he'd win by late knockout or decision.

Don Turner is a veteran trainer who currently works with Larry Holmes.

JOEY FARIELLO



Patterson had extremely fast hands, threw well in combination, and had better power than people gave him credit for. Aside from Sonny Liston, he did well against everyone. I never thought he had a bad chin; he went down but always got up. Besides, he never got hit with a lot of punches. He had tremendous intestinal fortitude. You have to throw the Liston fights out.

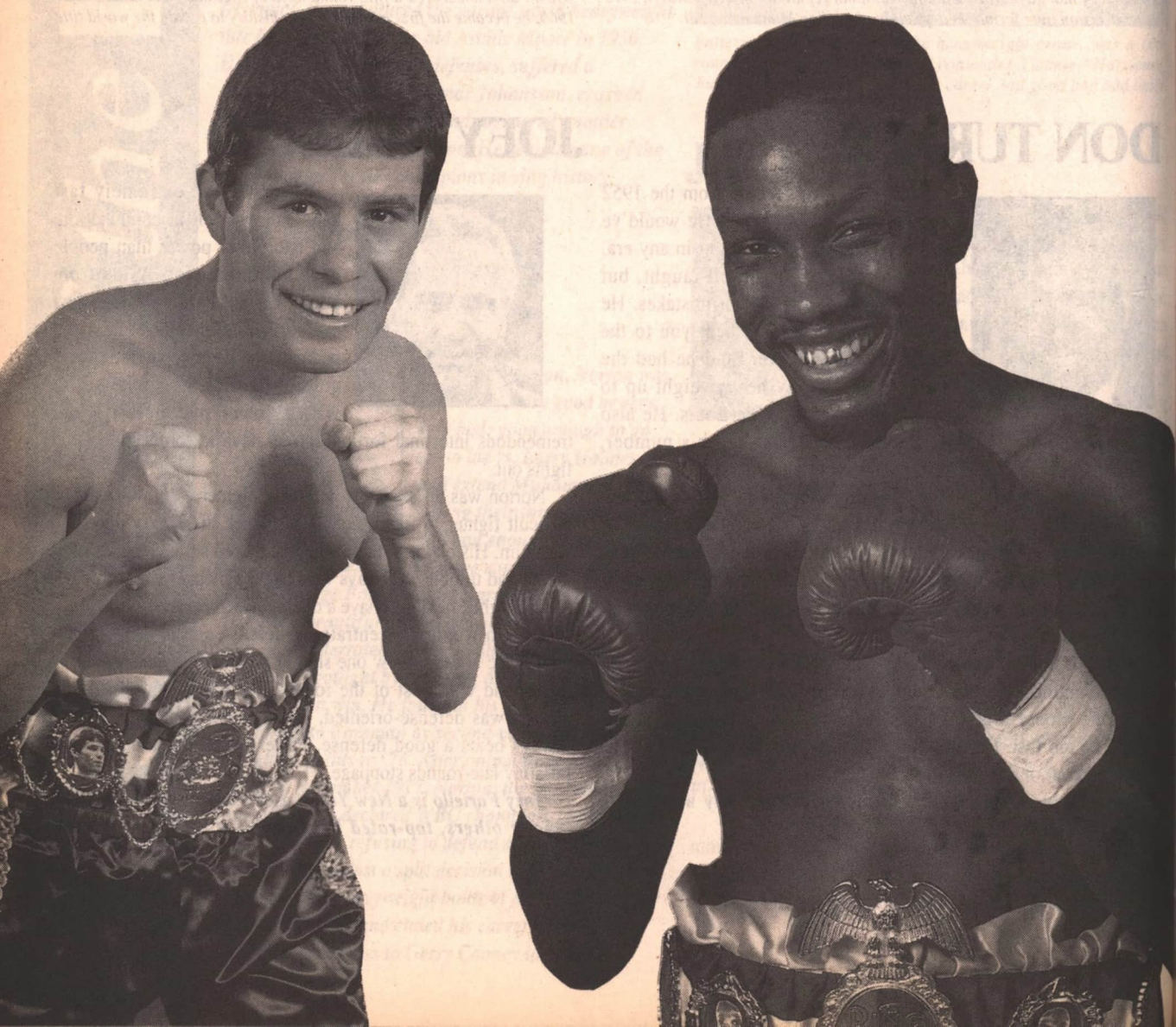
Norton was an excellent defensive fighter, very awkward, a difficult fighter to figure out. Eddie Futch did a very good job with him. His claim to fame was that he did so well against Ali, but he had trouble with guys who could punch. If you throw out the Ali fights, he didn't have a distinguished career.

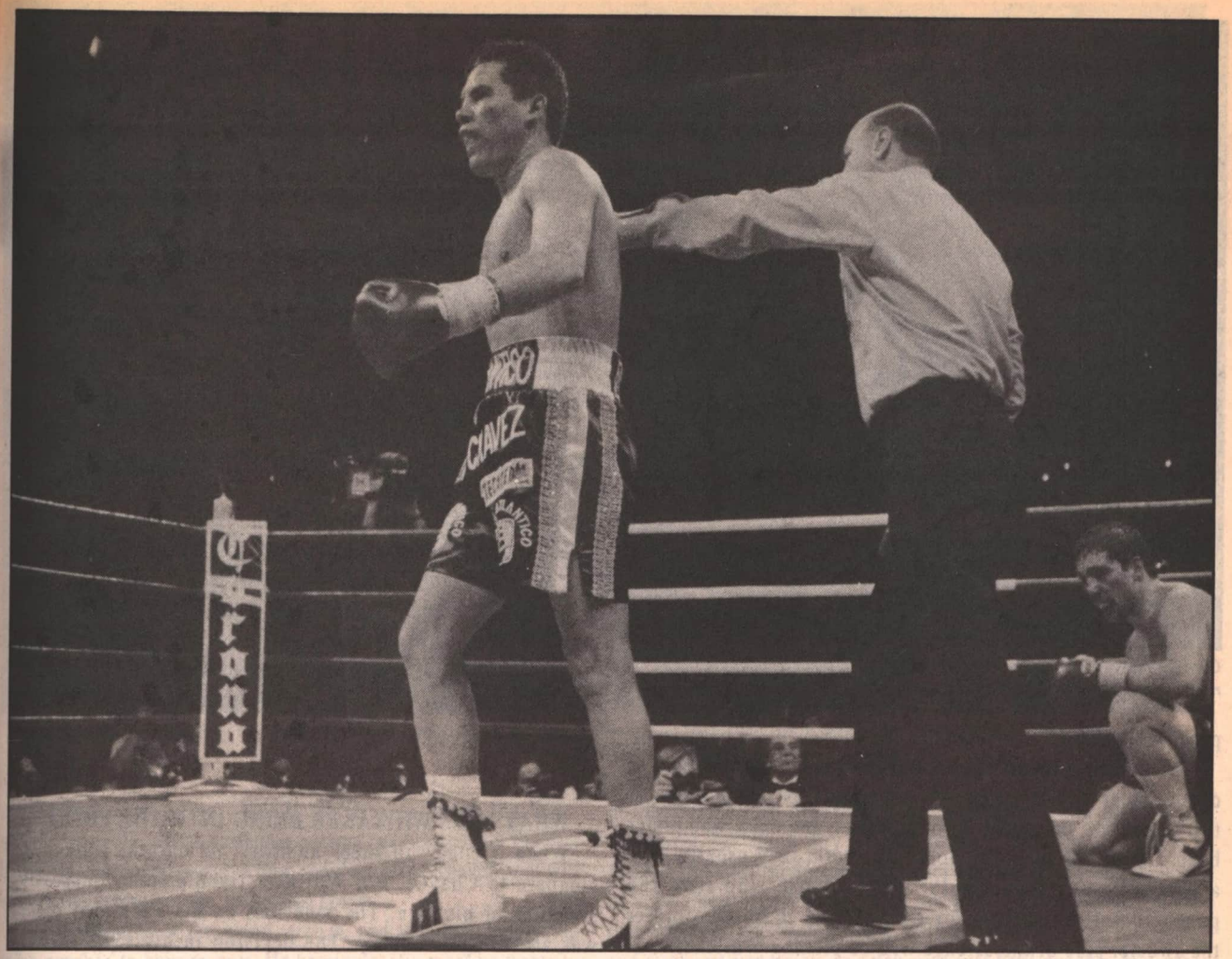
Norton would concentrate on defense and look to sneak-punch. He always threw one shot at a time. Patterson would be busier and win most of the rounds. He was offense-oriented. Norton was defense-oriented, and in boxing, a good offense always beats a good defense. Patterson by decision or very possibly late-rounds stoppage.

Joey Fariello is a New York-based trainer who works with, among others, top-rated bantamweight contender Junior Jones. ■

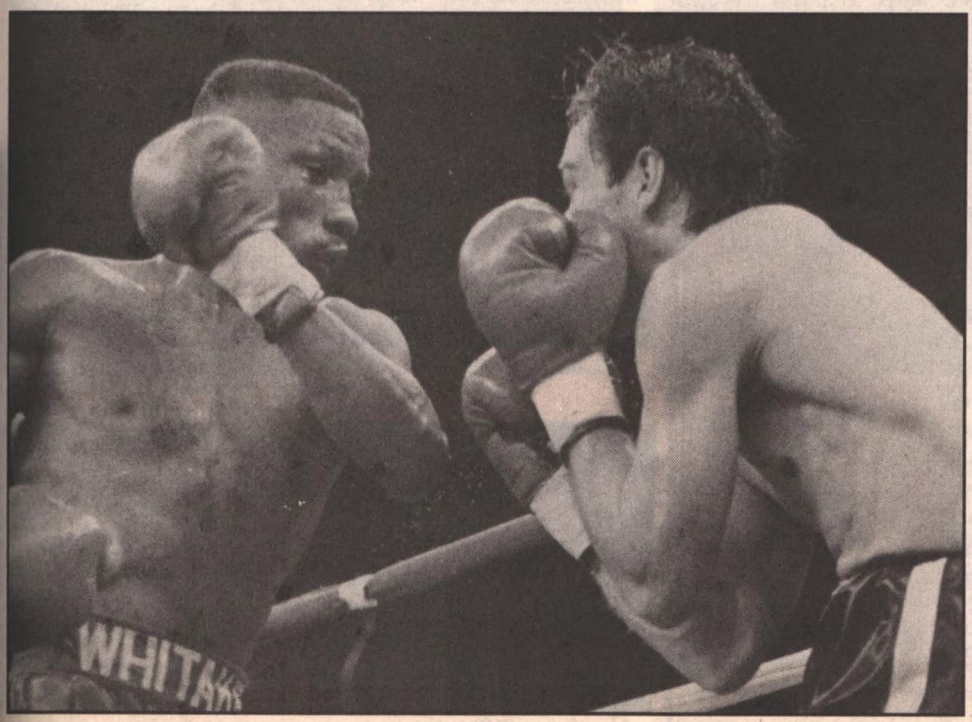
A PREVIEW OF THE CHAVEZ-WHITAKER SHOWDOWN

THE BEST VS. THE BEST



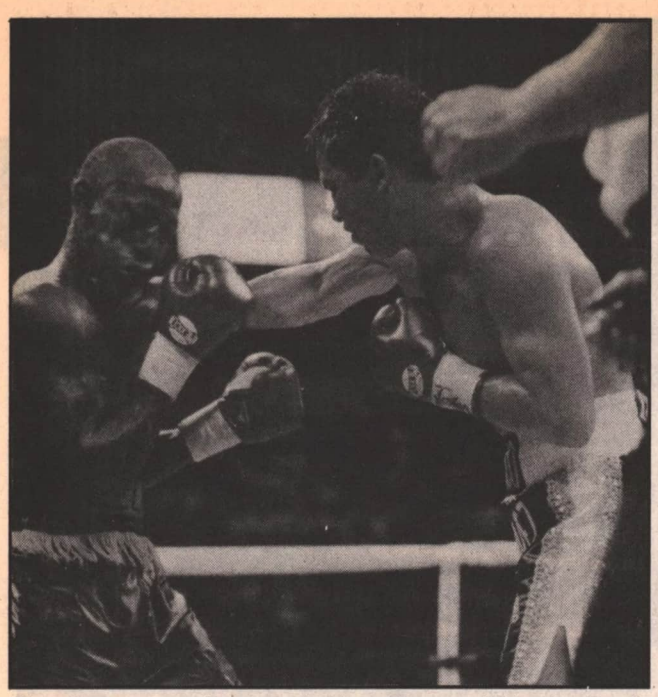


Among Chavez and Whitaker's common opponents is Greg Haugen, who was stopped by "J.C. Superstar" this past February (above), and lost a distance fight to "Sweet Pea" in February 1989 (below). Both Chavez and Whitaker knocked Haugen down.



By Nigel Collins

There are lots of different ways of looking at the Julio Cesar Chavez-Pernell Whitaker superfight, to be held on September 10 at the Alomodome in San Antonio. In the simplest terms it's a 12-rounder for Whitaker's WBC welterweight title. But to a boxing world starved for a significant fight between elite performers, its much, much more. It's a rarity, a dream match that's actually going to happen. It's a battle for the mythological pound-for-pound title. It's Superstar vs. Super-Duperstar. And it's a classic clash of styles, an old-fashioned boxer vs.



Chavez' most recent effort was a bashing of Terrence Alli in May. For six rounds, the Mexican champion displayed every weapon in his arsenal.

puncher showdown.

When such a tough-to-pick match is made, people tend to choose sides with emotion. Most boxing fans fall into one of two categories: those who favor punchers, and those who prefer boxers. Although plenty of folks like both, they usually have a partiality for a particular style. Those who love the punchers will be rooting for Chavez, and those who prefer the sweeter side of the science will be picking Whitaker.

While Chavez is far removed from the classic one-shot slugger who leads with his face, he represents the ultimate refinement of the breed. And more importantly, he symbolizes the macho warrior who forces the fight.

COMPARATIVE STATS

	CHAVEZ	WHITAKER
Rounds Fought	432	238
Average Rounds Per Fight	4.9	7.2
World Champions Fought	10	10
Record In Title Fights	25-0	11-1
Record At Welterweight	0-0	2-0

Whitaker, on the other hand, personifies the pure boxer, the clever craftsman who uses the ring like a chessboard. His appeal lies in an appreciation of brains over brawn, and a boxer's ability to out-think his adversary. He reacts to, rather than initiates, the action.

The secret to analyzing this fight is to overcome partisan passions and then look at the contest with a cold, objective eye. When two fighters of such prowess are involved, you're practically forced to look at the intangibles. Nonetheless, each fighter possesses distinct assets, skills, and characteristics that should be closely examined. And in order to win, each fighter will have to accomplish well-defined goals.

WHAT DOES WHITAKER BRING INTO THE FIGHT?

When it comes to sheer numbers, no current fighter can compare to Chavez. But Whitaker flaunts some impressive statistics of his own. The lone loss on his 32-1 (15) record was an outright robbery. The decision in his 1988 title try vs. then-WBC lightweight champion Jose Luis Ramirez was a mockery, and was thoroughly avenged the next year, when Whitaker easily outpointed Ramirez for the vacant WBC belt.

The most impressive aspect of Whitaker's record is the company he has kept. Even before winning the IBF lightweight belt with a 12-round romp over Greg Haugen in February 1989, he came off the deck to beat future two-division champion Roger Mayweather.

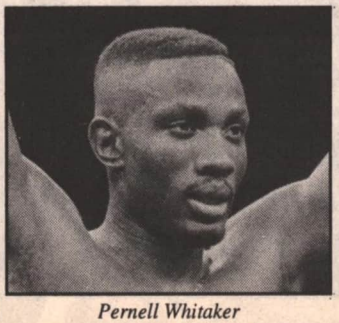
Whitaker has fought the best men available. While demolishing ordinary WBA titlist Juan Nazario to unify the lightweight championship was no big deal, his defenses over Azumah Nelson and Fred Pendleton were. Nelson and Pendleton are current world champions, and Nelson is probably headed for the Hall of Fame.

In March, Whitaker beat

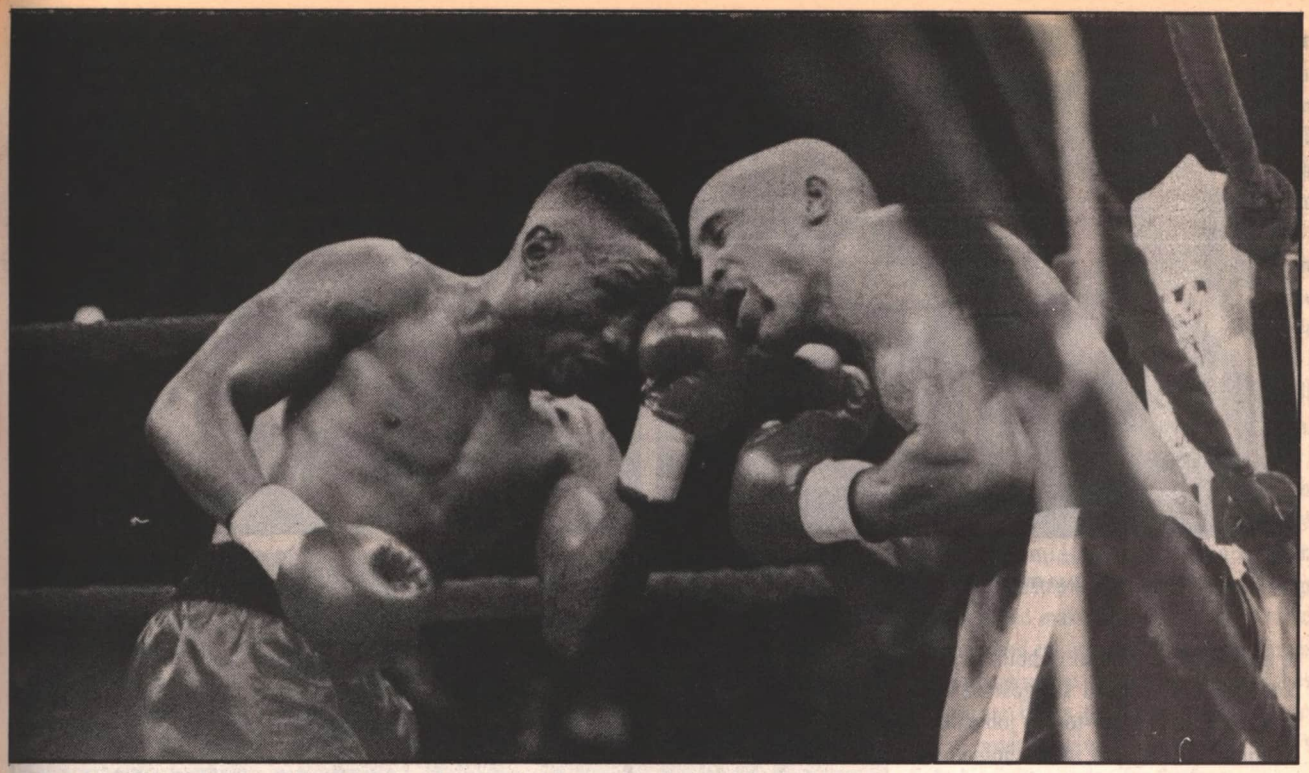
TALE OF THE TAPE

CHAVEZ		WHITAKER
July 12, 1962	Birthdate	January 2, 1964
Ciudad Obregon, Mexico	Birthplace	Norfolk, Virginia
31	Age	29
5'7"	Height	5'6"
66½"	Reach	70"
35"	Chest (Normal)	37"
37½"	Chest (Expanded)	39½"
13"	Bicep	13½"
10½"	Forearm	11¼"
30"	Waist	29"
19½"	Thigh	22"
13"	Calf	14"
15¾"	Neck	15½"
7"	Wrist	7"
9½"	Fist	10¼"

Julio Cesar Chavez



Pernell Whitaker

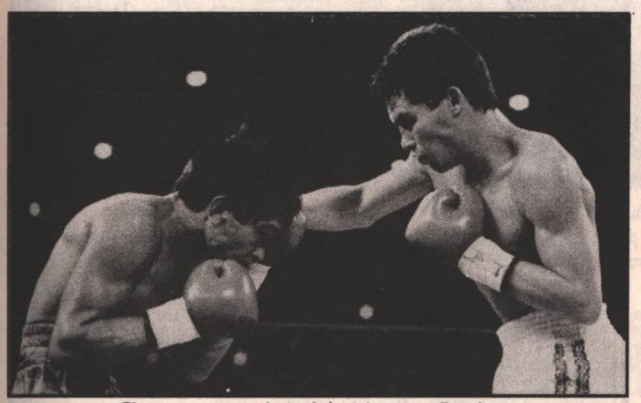


Whitaker will be defending the WBC welterweight title, which he won by outpointing Buddy McGirt in March. He has fought twice at welterweight.

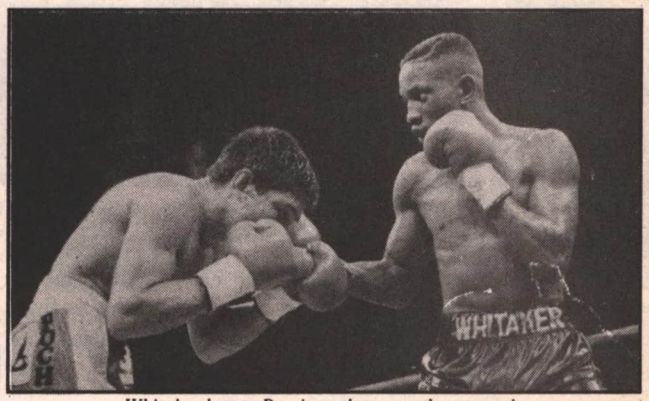
another excellent fighter, Buddy McGirt, to annex the WBC welterweight title. (That particular victory was tainted by the fact McGirt entered the bout with a bum shoulder.) The Chavez bout will be his initial defense of the 147-pound crown.

Whitaker is fine boxer, smart, stylish, and with just enough zip on his punches to gain respect. He knows exactly what he wants to do, and has a history of executing his battle plans to near-perfection.

"Sweet Pea" has a very difficult style to solve. For starters, he's got that southpaw strangeness going for him. As if that isn't enough, he's the finest defensive specialist this side of Ozzie Smith. He has that wonderful anticipatory sense Wilfred Benitez used to call radar, and is almost impossible to catch with two hard punches in a row.



Chavez won a technical decision over Ramirez



Whitaker lost to Ramirez, then won the rematch

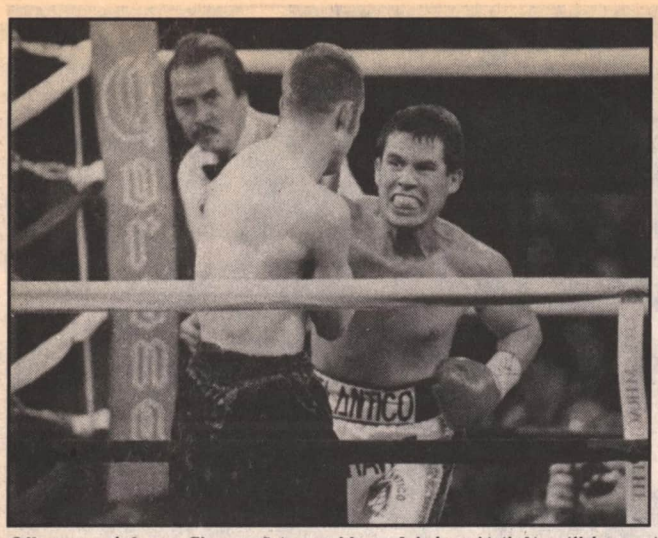
COMMON OPPONENTS

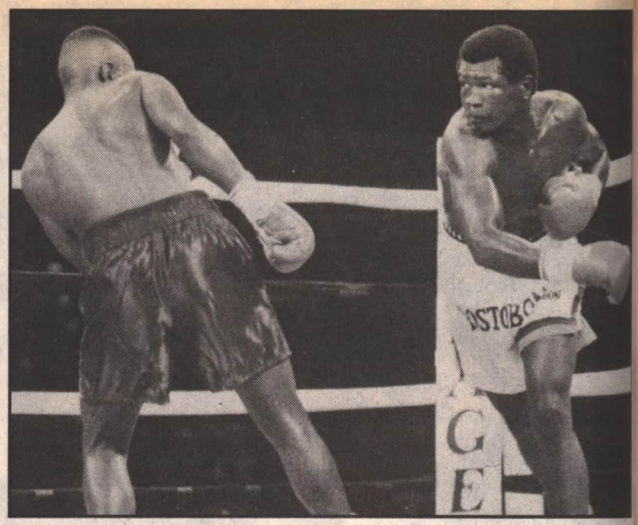
Opponent	Whitaker	Chavez
Jose Luis Ramirez	L 12, W 12	Tech. Dec. 11
Roger Mayweather	W 12	KO 2, KO 10
Greg Haugen	W 12	KO 5

Mix in outstanding hand and foot speed, pinpoint accuracy, and uncanny balance, and you have a fighter capable of achieving greatness.

WHAT DOES CHAVEZ BRING INTO THE FIGHT?

This is a little like asking what fingers bring to a fist. At a time when Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard are fading memories, and the most famous heavyweight not behind bars is a 45-year-old grandfather, Chavez has restored a degree of integrity and stability





Offense vs. defense: Chavez, firing at Marty Jakubowski (left), will be moving forward in an attempt to smother Whitaker. "Sweet Pea," making Rafael Pineda miss (right), will try to remain out of the Mexican's range. Which fighter will be most effective on September 10?

to a sport much in need of both. Here's a guy who fights so often, his 87-0 (72) record suggests a time when boxers regarded fighting as both a day-to-day job and an honored profession.

Since turning pro in his hometown of Culiacan in February 1980, Chavez has been a dreadnought, steamrolling steadily onward like a intractable force of nature. He won his first world crown, the vacant WBC super featherweight title, by stopping countryman Mario Martinez in October 1984, and has been wearing at least one championship belt ever since. Other baubles collected along the way: the WBA and WBC lightweight titles, and the WBC and IBF junior welterweight crowns. Among his more notable victims: Juan LaPorte, Edwin Rosario, Meldrick Taylor, Hector Camacho, and Haugen—all at one time or another world champions.

Once the bell rings, Chavez goes about his task like a master builder constructing a mansion. There's no wasted motion, no hot dog antics, no bellyaching to the referee—just solid fundamentals executed in such a seamless fashion you know you're watching a virtuoso at work.

He starts with a solid foundation of bodywork, punishing adversaries with the best left hook to the liver since Ruben Olivares ruled the bantamweights more than two decades ago. Other essential materials—relentless pressure and unerring punching—are laid on in generous measure until the project is ready for the finishing touch, which usually comes sometime before the fight-ending bell. To date, it's been an unbeatable formula and has taken Chavez to the pinnacle of his profession.

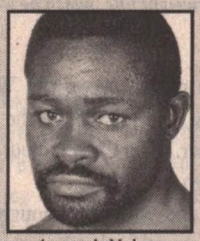
WHAT WHITAKER MUST DO TO WIN

You don't have to be a genius to appreciate the futility of swapping shots with Chavez in the trenches. And while Whitaker has recently been standing flatfooted in an effort to both appease his critics and obtain more power, he'll be back on his bicycle for this bout quicker than you can say *Tour de France*.

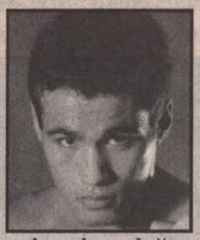
Unless Whitaker has suddenly taken leave of his senses, he'll box on the move and try to keep Chavez on the end of his southpaw jab, while occasionally lashing out with counter combinations. He'll give Chavez more evasive angles than a scatback headed for the end zone. In order to beat the world's best fighter, Whitaker will have to elevate the art of the dodge to bungee-jumping heights.

With a knockout ratio under .500, Whitaker is obviously not

THE BIG-FIGHT UNDERCARD



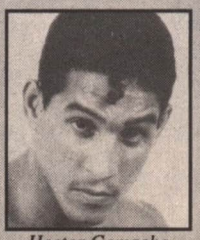
Azumah Nelson



Jesse James Leija

•**Azumah Nelson**, 36-2-1 (26), defends the WBC super featherweight title against local favorite **Jesse James Leija**, 26-0-1 (12). Despite having made nine successful defenses, the 35-year-old Nelson is only slightly favored to retain the belt.

Crisanto Espana



Hector Camacho

•**Crisanto Espana**, 29-0 (24), defends the WBA welterweight title against **Hector Camacho**, 43-2 (20), in a bout that could feature more posing than punching. The Belfast-based Venezuelan will be willing to mix it up, but it's unlikely the "Macho Man" will cooperate.

THE RING STAFF PICKS THE WINNER

Steve Farhood:	Whitaker	W 12
Nigel Collins:	Chavez	W 12
Eric Karabell:	Chavez	W 12
Jeff Ryan:	Chavez	KO 10
Robert Cassidy:	Chavez	W 12
Ed Maloney:	Chavez	KO 10
Stu Saks:	Chavez	KO 11

one of boxing's homerun hitters. But that doesn't mean Chavez can eat his punches like they're Doritos. Whitaker's shots are concise and delivered with enough snap to make any fighter think twice about being careless. A knockout victory for the Norfolk native is about as likely as the Phoenix Cardinals winning the Super Bowl. Still, if everything else goes well, he'll hit hard enough to win.

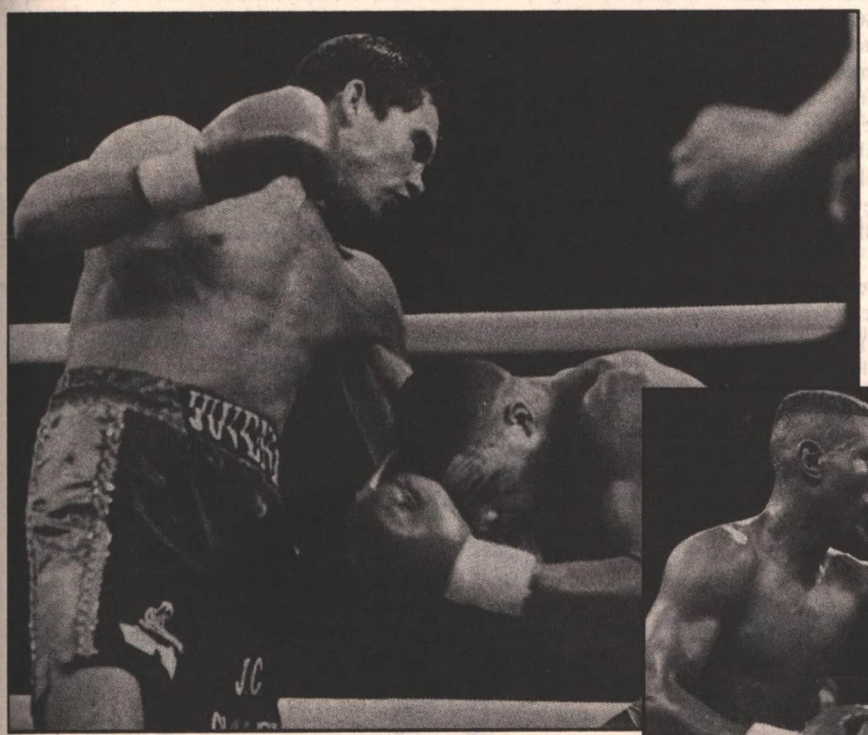
Runners and grabbers Lonnie Smith and Camacho lasted the distance with Chavez, but neither came close to winning. In order to garner enough points, Whitaker will have to throw a lot more leather than Smith and Camacho did. Therein lies a dilemma: If Whitaker stops moving long enough to land more than a sporadic jab or lead left, he'll be giving Chavez an opportunity to get his own shots off.

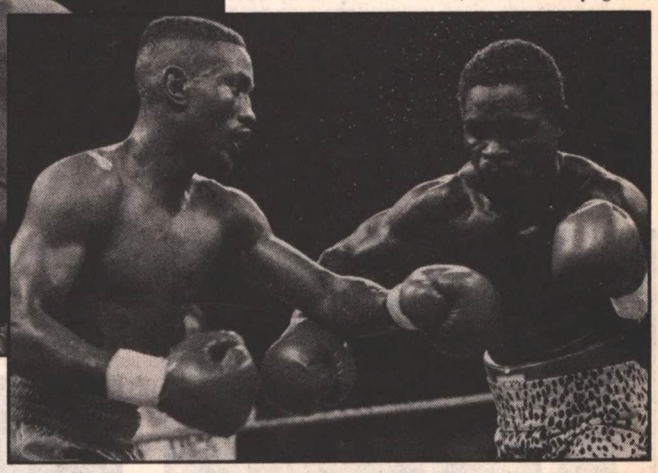
Whitaker's best bet will be to dart in, land a quick punch, and then get out of Dodge before Sheriff Chavez has a chance to arrest his progress. The defending champion will also have to forget his pride and make liberal use of the clinch as a method of both avoiding punishment and frustrating the challenger. None of these tactics are likely to please the spectators, but in order to win, Whitaker will have to fight *his* fight, not one for the fans.

WHAT CHAVEZ MUST DO TO WIN

Chavez must do what he always does,

(Continued on page 61)





In order to defeat Whitaker, Chavez will need to hammer the body, as he did vs. John Duplessis (above). Whitaker's ticket to victory will be a sharp counterattack launched from a comfortable distance, which worked against Azumah Nelson (right). Which champion will be most effective?

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONS WHO CHALLENGED FOR THE WELTERWEIGHT TITLE

DATE	CHALLENGER	CHAMPION	RESULT
5-28-34	Barney Ross	Jimmy McLarnin	W 15
1-14-79	Wilfred Benitez	Carlos Palomino	W 15
2-22-87	Johnny Bumphus	Lloyd Honeyghan	KO by 2
8-30-87	Gene Hatcher	Lloyd Honeyghan	KO by 1
1-19-91	Meldrick Taylor	Aaron Davis	W 12
11-29-91	Buddy McGirt	Simon Brown	W 12
6-25-92	Patrizio Oliva	Buddy McGirt	L 12

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Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

ALWAYS NEAR HIS ROOTS

(August 12, 1940)

Billy Conn used to say, "No matter how many showers I took, I never could wash Pittsburgh's coal dust out of my skin." He said it with pride and affection. Whenever he was more than 10 miles from Coaltown, he got homesick. When these pictures were taken by *Look* magazine photographer Bob Hansen, Conn was only 22 years old. He was light heavyweight champion of the world, internationally famous, the most idolized Irish prize fighter since John L. Sullivan, and every bit as handsome as Errol Flynn. What's more, the kid from Pittsburgh was a natural, a master boxer and solid puncher, with more raw guts than was good for him. If they had told him he was going to fight King Kong, Billy would have asked only one question: "When?"

The great promoter Mike Jacobs loved Conn like the son he never had. And since Jacobs controlled heavyweight champion Joe Louis, the only way Billy would be bypassed as a future Louis opponent would be if he was run over by a locomotive.

The buildup for the first Louis-Conn fight was moving into high gear during the summer of 1940. Jacobs' high-powered publicity machine made sure Billy's rags-to-riches saga, spiced with intriguing photos of his magnificently proportioned physique and infectious smile, radiated from the pages of every magazine and newspaper around the world. Quipped famed Hearst sports columnist Bill Corum, "If Mike Jacobs loved Billy Conn like a son, as he insists he does, why in the world would he allow him in the ring with Mr. Joe Louis?"

The picture story that appeared in *Look* magazine portrayed Billy's human side. The photo (bottom left) captures Conn leaving his $10,000 home in one of Pittsburgh's better neighborhoods as his father, a steam fitter, watches. Billy was deeply depressed because his mother lay gravely ill inside. The caption read, "The illness of his tenement-worn mother brings tears to Billy's eyes. And $50 a day from his battle-earned bankroll for physicians and nurses."

Conn wasn't in the mood for pictures on that emotionally trying day, but he forced himself to go through the motions. The photo (bottom right) shows him visiting the house in which he once lived, in one of Pittsburgh's worst slums, talking to the ragged kids who now lived in the coal dust-covered place. Billy visited his old haunts regularly. The neighbors who still lived there followed him along the murky streets, yelling, "Hiya, Billy." He remembered many of them by their first names, and they swelled with pride because they could tell everybody they were pals of Billy Conn.

They showed their pride and faith by betting their pennies on him to win whenever he fought. On June 18, 1941, the day Billy got his chance against Louis, they didn't bet their pennies. They went into hock and bet their nickels. None of them minded losing their money. After all, it wasn't Louis who beat Billy; it was Billy's Irish temper than had done him in. And who could hold that against the beloved "Pittsburgh Kid"?

SINGING CHAMPION

(February 7, 1949)

World flyweight champion Rinty Monaghan, like every showman worth his salt, had his own gimmick. After every fight, win, lose, or draw, the tiny Belfast-born tiger would grab the ring microphone and belt out a tune in his high-pitched Irish brogue. It was fun, and the crowds loved it. "I like to give them something extra for their support," said Rinty.

But on this particular chilly and foggy London night, Monaghan had to force himself to go into his postfight routine. "I really had nothing to sing about that night," he would later confess. Which was putting it mildly.

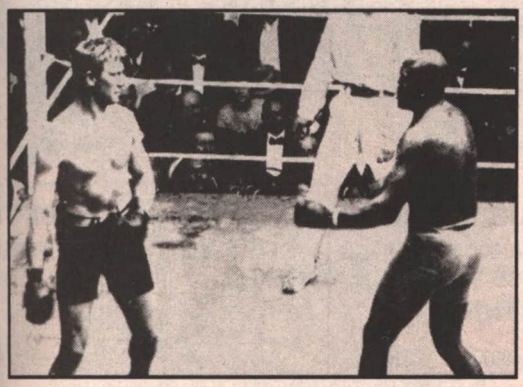
Britain's sharp-hitting Terry Allen gave Rinty one of the few bad beatings of his 15-year career, knocking him down four times during the eight-round match and romping to a unanimous decision. Luckily for Monaghan, his title wasn't at stake. After shaking the cobwebs from his head, Rinty wobbled to midring, took the microphone in his still-wrapped left hand, and, in a shaky voice, struggled through the words of the ever-popular "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows."

WHO'S THE REFEREE?

(June 6, 1914)

Heavyweight champion Jack Johnson (right) stalks challenger Frank Moran in the 20th and final round of their title fight at the Velodrome D'Hiver in Paris. There are two interesting things about this picture: 1) It portrays Johnson's classic stance as does no other image of the great champion, and 2) the referee's head is cut off at the neck.

This was no ordinary referee. As a matter of fact, he was equally responsible for attracting the huge crowd of about 30,000 as were the fighters. The referee was the idol of all France, its famed "Orchid Man," Georges Carpentier. Although actually a middleweight at the time, Gorgeous Georges held both the heavyweight and light heavyweight championships of Europe, and it was every Frenchman's dream to see him knock the world's crown off Johnson's head. It never happened.



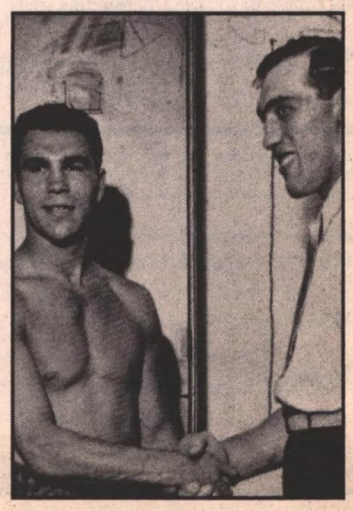
Moran, although completely outclassed by the bloated champion, made a valiant effort and was never knocked off his feet. At the end, Carpentier, the sole official, lifted Johnson's hand in victory.

But the drama didn't end there. Neither Moran or Johnson, nor their braintrusts, were aware that all the box office receipts had been impounded by Johnson's creditors, which constituted a small army. And as it turned out, just as the French courts were about the hear arguments, World War I broke out. After a year of trying to con French lawyers into arguing his case on a contingency basis, the flat-broke champion gave up all hopes of ever collecting his purse.

Moran, on the other hand, true to his never-quit ring style, never stopped trying to collect his 40 percent cut, which he figured to be around $44,000. In fact, when the old warrior died in 1967 at age 80, 53 years after the fight, boxing columnist Joe Williams of the *New York Telegram*, a longtime friend and admirer of Moran, wrote, "I talked to Frank on the phone about two months before he passed on. He called me from his home in Los Angeles. Unlike most old pugs, he preferred to talk about today's fighters rather than the good old days. He said he never gets tired watching Ray Robinson, whom he called the greatest fighter ever.

"When the time came to hang up the phone, Frank, who had a marvelous sense of humor, asked me if I knew a good lawyer. I asked him what for. He snapped, 'Because somebody owes me a bundle of money. And I'm gonna collect!'"

SEE YOU LATER



(July 3, 1931)

After weighing in for his first title defense, against Young Stribling in Cleveland, world heavyweight champion Max Schmeling (left) greets Italian giant Primo Carnera. Although unconfirmed at the time, Carnera had been promised a title shot against the winner.

Schmeling was startled by Primo's size. (Note how Max' hand is engulfed by Carnera's.) When the champion, accompanied by manager Joe Jacobs and trainer Max Mahon, was riding back to his hotel after the weigh-in, Schmeling was reported to have expressed concern at the thought of facing "such a man of that great size." The quick-witted Jacobs tried to ease the champion's uneasiness by explaining that size is really unimportant among heavyweights. He recalled that Jess Willard, who was about the same size as Carnera, had been annihilated by Jack Dempsey. "Dempsey," Jacobs stressed, "was smaller than you are, Max."

Jacobs evidently failed to convince his tiger that he had nothing to fear but fear itself. Whenever Primo's name was mentioned as a possible opponent, Schmeling seemed to have hearing problems. It was doubtful that Max was ever going to forget how his hand had disappeared that day in Cleveland, when the giant extended his huge paw and said, "Put it there." ■

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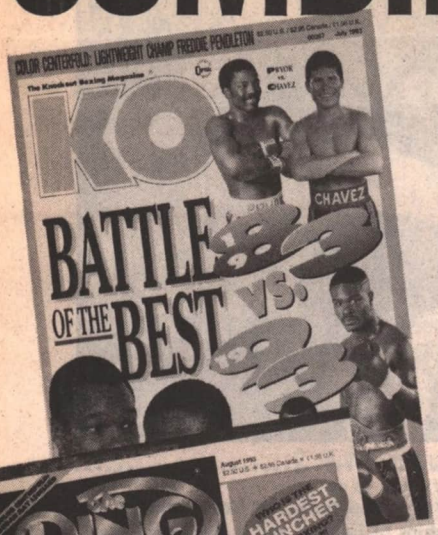

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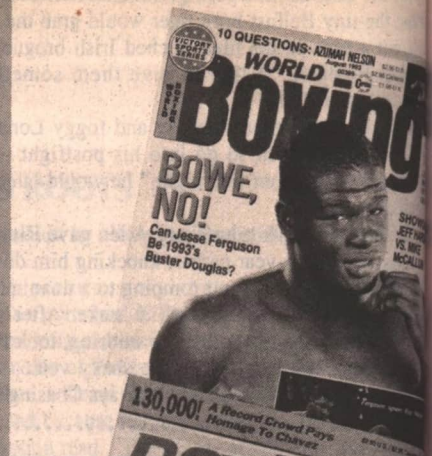

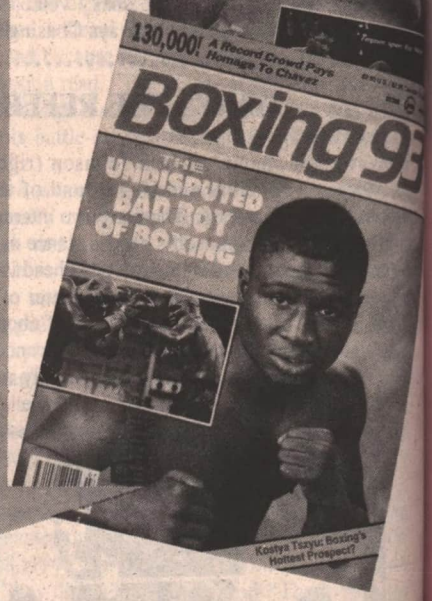

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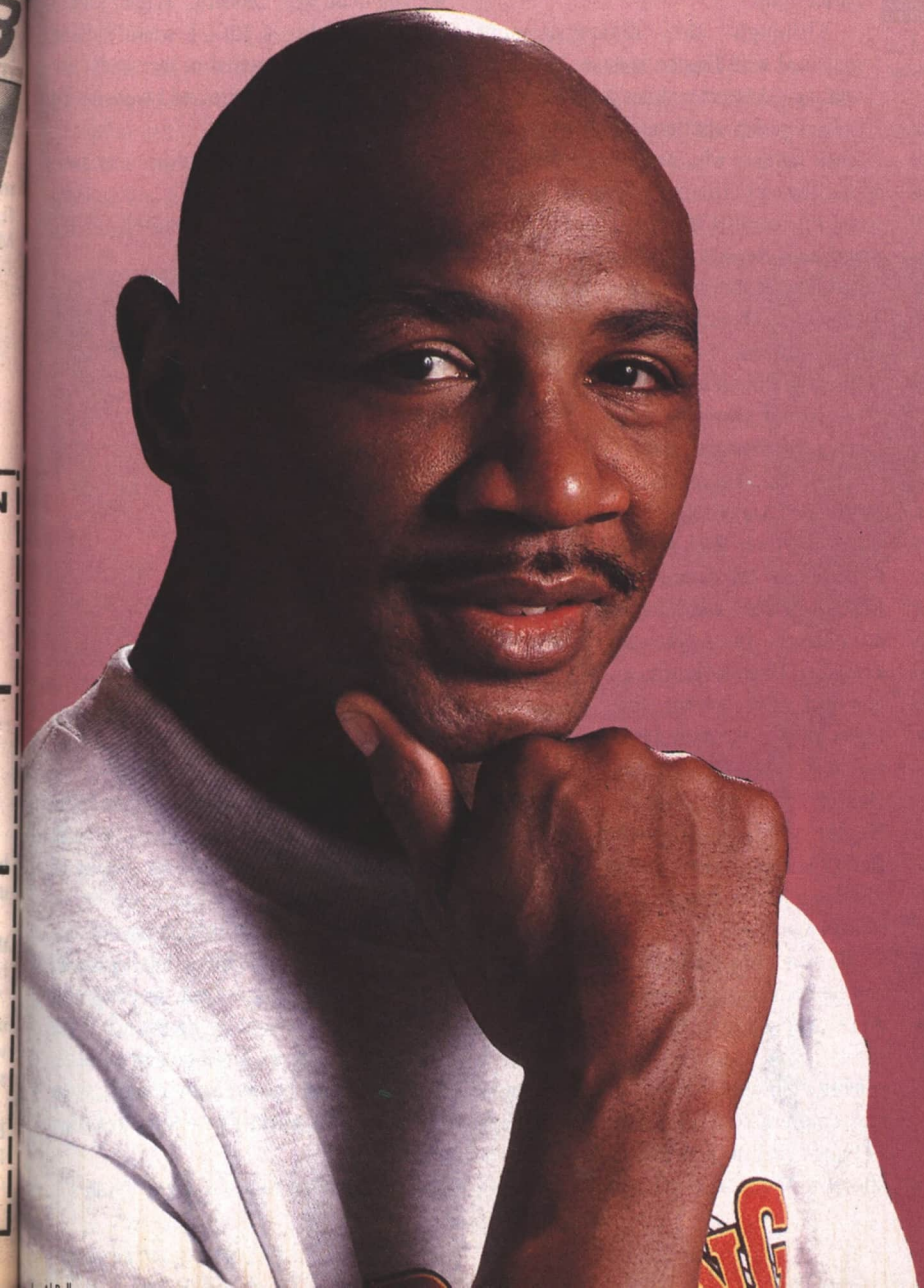
MARVIN HAGLER JOINS BOXING'S IMMORTALS

THE BITTERNESS HAS FADED

By Ed Maloney



Marvelous Marvin Hagler's place in boxing history was secure long before his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June. The bald-headed southpaw was the best middleweight in the post-Carlos Monzon era of the late-'70s, and the division's undisputed champion from 1980 to 1987. But savoring the sweet taste of the fruit of his labor was a long time in coming. Although Hagler's list of accomplishments easily filled his plaque on the Hall's Wall of Fame, he should have enjoyed a longer stint as the premier fighter of the middleweight division, and later the entire sport.

"This Hall of Fame is the greatest thing that has happened to boxing," he said. "It should have happened a long time ago. There are so many great champions in the Hall of Fame who have died. It's a shame they didn't get the chance to be honored like this.

"Being inducted is the final chapter in my career in boxing. Coming to Canastota is the final moment of glory. This is the moment that I've always been seeking."

But it was a moment that didn't come until 20 years after his pro debut, and much of the time in between was filled with frustrations that a man of his stature shouldn't have had to endure.

Turning pro in 1973, Brockton's new "Blockbuster" and his manager-trainer team of brothers Pat and Goody Petronelli

Hagler studies his display case at the International Boxing Hall of Fame , where he was inducted in June.

barnstormed through New England. Hagler won his first 17 fights before battling to a 10-round draw with Sugar Ray Seales in Seattle, the 1972 Olympic gold medalist's backyard. His first two career losses, 10-round decisions to Philadelphians Bobby "Boogaloo" Watts and Willie "The Worm" Monroe in the City of Brotherly Love, were avenged via knockout (as was his draw with Seales).

By the end of 1977, he was 37-2-1 (30), and recognized as the top-rated middleweight contender by THE RING. Securing a title shot, however, was difficult for two reasons: Hagler was a dangerous southpaw, and the Petronellis were reluctant to sign a long-term promotional agreement. Anything and everything Hagler would earn in boxing would be accomplished with his fists. He received no breaks. And in the end, he didn't owe anything to anyone, except his trainers.

His first and last championship bouts went the distance, the outcomes determined by questionable decisions. They were verdicts he and his huge league of supporters complained were "Vegas decisions." On both occasions, a 1979 15-round draw with then-champion Vito Antuofermo and a 12-round split decision loss to a comebacking Sugar Ray Leonard in 1987, Hagler left the ring disgusted.

The moment that haunted him most, however, came in 1980, seconds after he became the middleweight king by scoring a third-round TKO of Englishman Alan Minter in London.

Hagler had planned to walk around the ring and show his title belts to the world, especially his family and friends watching on television back in Brockton. But he never got the chance.

"My moment of glory was taken from me," he said on the eve of his induction in Canastota, New York. Then, shaking his head, he continued, "Instead ... well, you know what happened."

Instead, he and the Petronellis were showered with bottles and food and anything else the Wembley Arena mob could get its hands on. They had to cover up and run. Instead of enjoying his coronation, Hagler was the target of a palace coup.

Although the disappointment remained with Hagler, it never interfered with his "destruct and destroy" mentality. His first seven challengers were clearly inferior fighters who were dispatched with cool efficiency. His opposition got tougher with his eighth defense, a 15-round unanimous verdict over the legendary Roberto Duran. Then came a shootout against Juan Roldan, whom he stopped in 10 rounds, and a third-round stoppage in a rematch vs. Mustafa Hamsho.

By 1985, Leonard had retired, and heavyweight king Larry Holmes had faded. Center stage belonged to the Marvelous One, and he took advantage. In April, he kayoed Thomas Hearns in one of the most exciting title fights ever; they stood toe to toe and traded bombs until Hearns fell in round three. A year later, Hagler tamed powerpuncher John "The Beast" Mugabi, brushing off the Ugandan's clubbing blows before scoring an 11th-round kayo.

He was now boxing's top marquee act, and he became a spokesman for Pizza Hut, diet Coke, and Gillette. Hagler admits that the outside interests that came with celebrity blurred his focus, and he began to contemplate retiring. But the win over Mugabi left him two successful defenses short of Monzon's division-record 14. Breaking that record was an achievement he felt would place him in a higher echelon.

His designs on history were derailed in 1987, when Leonard, playing the role of Roadrunner, squeaked out a split decision over the older, slower Wiley Coyote.

The loss bothered Hagler for a while. He wanted a rematch badly, but the capricious Leonard went back into retirement (for 17 months).

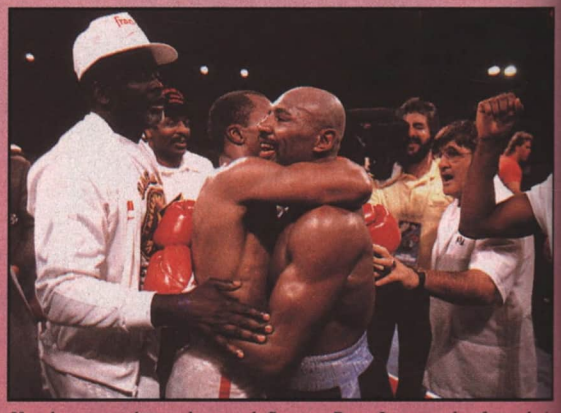
"I was interested in a rematch for about a year," Hagler said. "I wanted him so bad."

Everyone said Hagler needed boxing, that he'd be lost without it. And for a while, he was. He began to drink heavily and his marriage fell apart.

"Where does he go now?" Leonard said at the time. "I feel sorry for him."

"The problems I had after the fight had nothing to do with Leonard," Hagler said. "I began drinking a lot—I wasn't using cocaine [as was rumored at the time]—but that was because my wife and I were having problems."

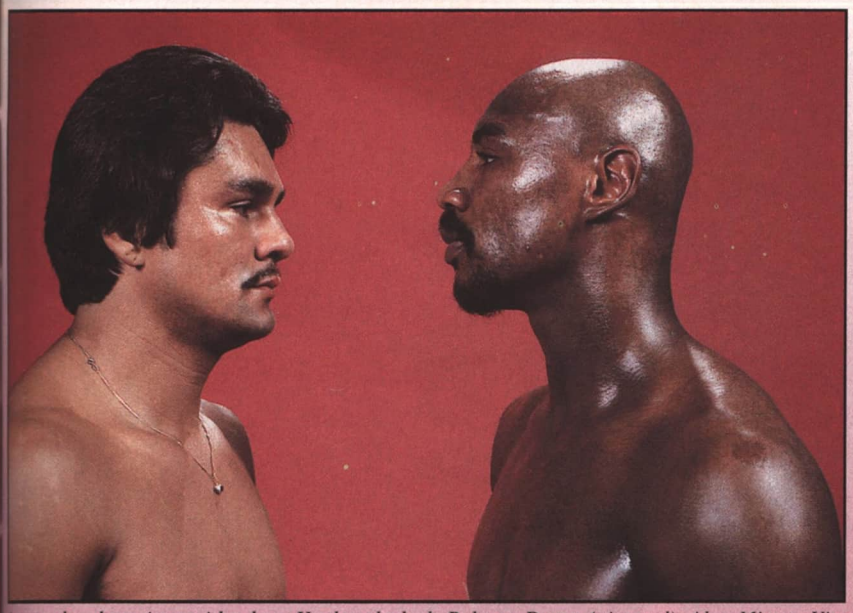
He realized his behavior was self-destructive, and he eventually straightened himself out. With no rematch on the horizon, he officially retired in June 1988. And once the decision was made, he stuck to it. Hagler was aware of the legion of former champions who had came out of retirement and suffered humiliating defeats.



Hagler may have hugged Sugar Ray Leonard after their monumental 1987 showdown, but the loss took him years to accept.

"I've had many offers, but I refused them all," he said. "I've been very happy in retirement. It was hard losing the itch to get in the ring, because I loved boxing so much. But once I made the decision to retire, there was no turning back. I've never even been tempted.

"It was hard to walk away from the



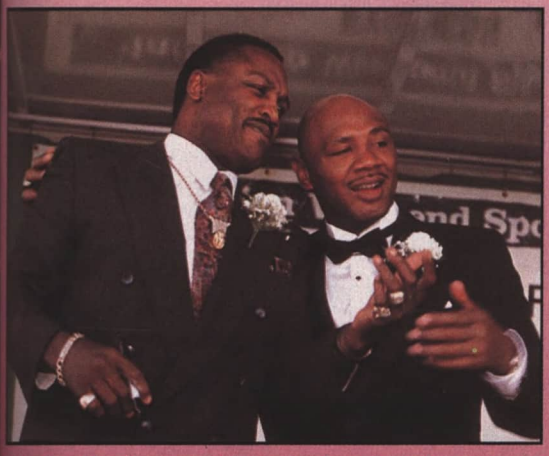
Among the champions with whom Hagler clashed: Roberto Duran (pictured), Alan Minter, Vito Antuofermo, Thomas Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard, Fully Obelmejias, and John Mugabi.

game. But I believe I did the right thing. I got out of boxing with my faculties and my health, which is very important."

Drawn to acting by his appearances in commercials, Hagler put out feelers to New York and Hollywood but got few responses. One filmmaker who was interested was British producer/director Anthony Dawson. Acting in Dawson's films, however, meant Hagler would have to move to Italy. His boxing career was over by that time, and so was his marriage, so he moved to Milan in 1989 and began a new career and a new chapter in his life.

"It's scary leaving your country," he said. "But I had fought in Italy. I like the people, the culture, and I wanted to learn the language."

So far, Hagler has starred in two movies, *Indio* and *Indio II*, both of which deal with environmental terrorism. The *Indio* pictures received decent reviews in Europe, and were especially popular with youngsters. But in America, they went straight to video. Hagler recently completed another film, *Nights Of Fear*, which was shot in Russia. He played a drill sergeant in the *Indio* movies, and an assassin in *Nights Of Fear*.



Marvelous Marvin poses with another legendary champion, Joe Frazier, at the induction ceremonies. "This is the moment that I've always been seeking," said Hagler of his accomplishment.

"Acting's a new challenge," he said. "I enjoy it, and I'm able to keep my face out there in public for my fans."

Hagler compares acting to boxing: Even if you were born with the talent, you still have to work hard to become good. He hopes his stint in Italy, therefore, is a temporary one. Just as he worked the kinks out of his boxing repertoire in out-of-the-way venues in New England, he'll endure his on-screen growing pains in Europe before again taking on Hollywood.

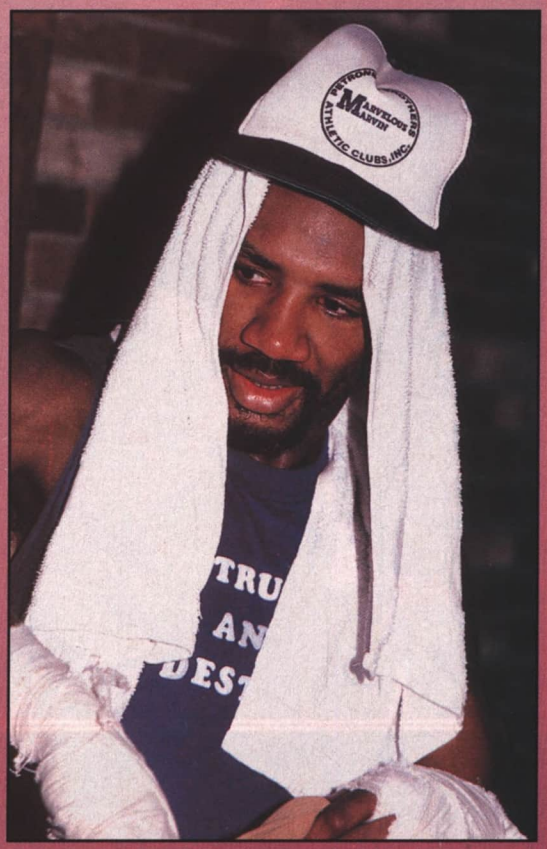
"I'm not going to win an Oscar," he said, "but I'm getting better. I feel more comfortable in front of the camera each time out. I'd eventually like to portray a character different from my image as a boxer. I just don't want to be a tough guy. I really want to learn this craft."

No, Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise won't have to worry about Hagler beating them out for roles, but the powers-that-be in Hollywood who ignored him should take note of the Marvelous One's perfect record in rematches.

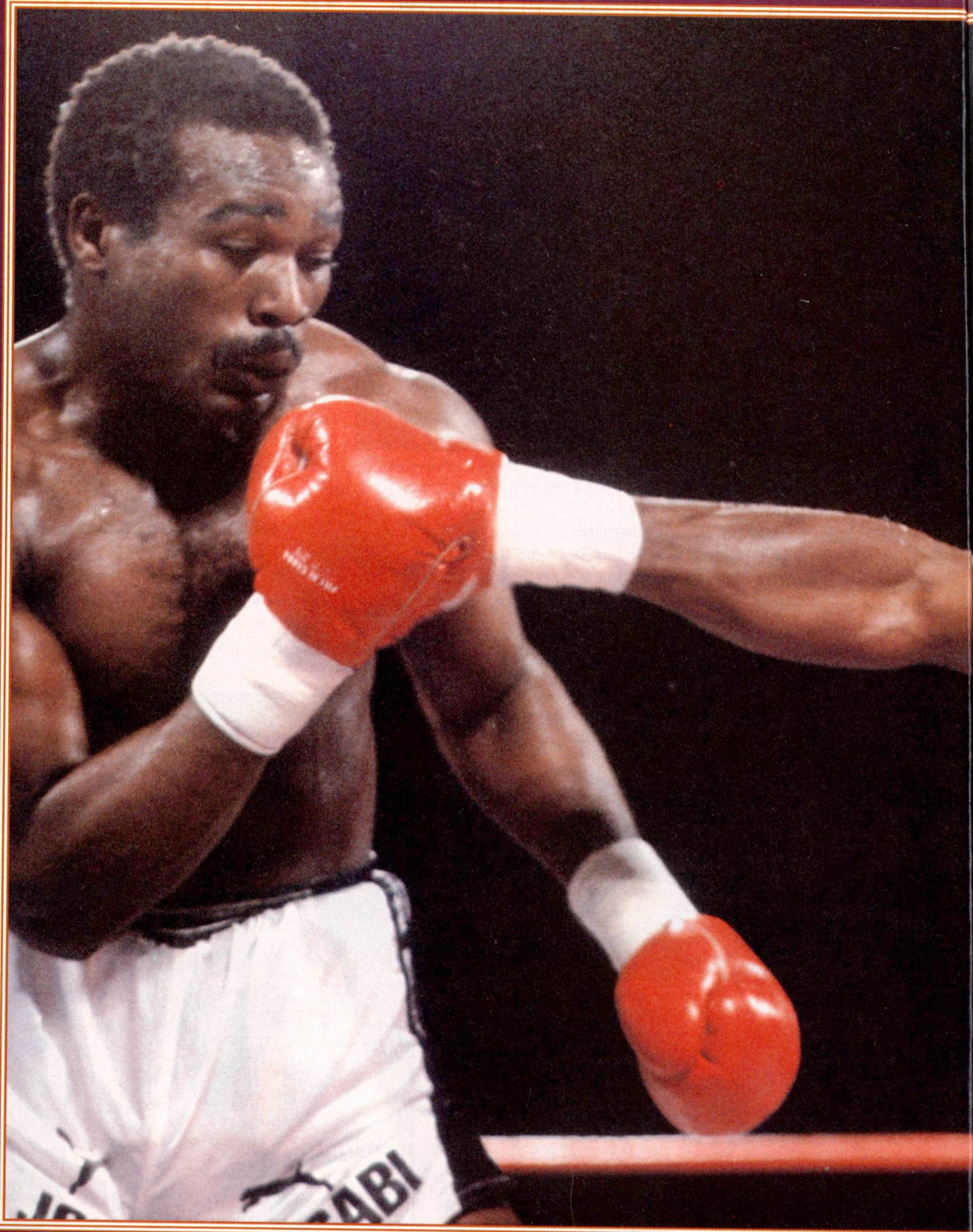
Between movies, Hagler has kept busy endorsing several products in Italy, including a men's clothing line. And because the *Indio* movies deal with environmental issues, the Italian government's interior minister has asked him to talk to students about that and other subjects.

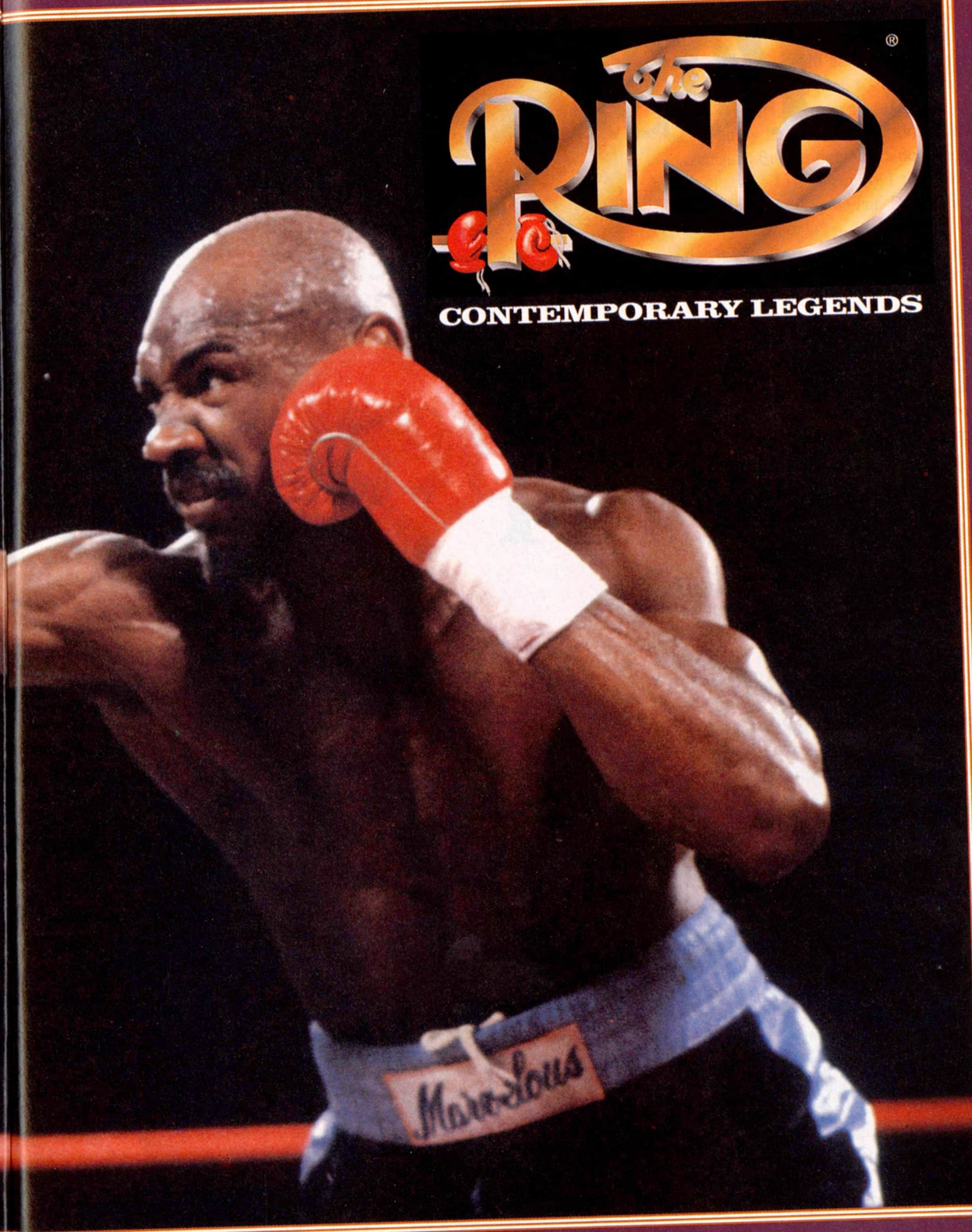
"I'm very happy in Milan," he said. "I come back to America every two months or so for various business obligations as well as boxing functions. I miss my kids [he has

(Continued on page 52)



Don't let the photo fool you: When Marvelous Marvin was in training, there were few light moments.





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Positively Speaking

WHY EVANDER HOLYFIELD MUST GET A TITLE SHOT

By Eric Karabell

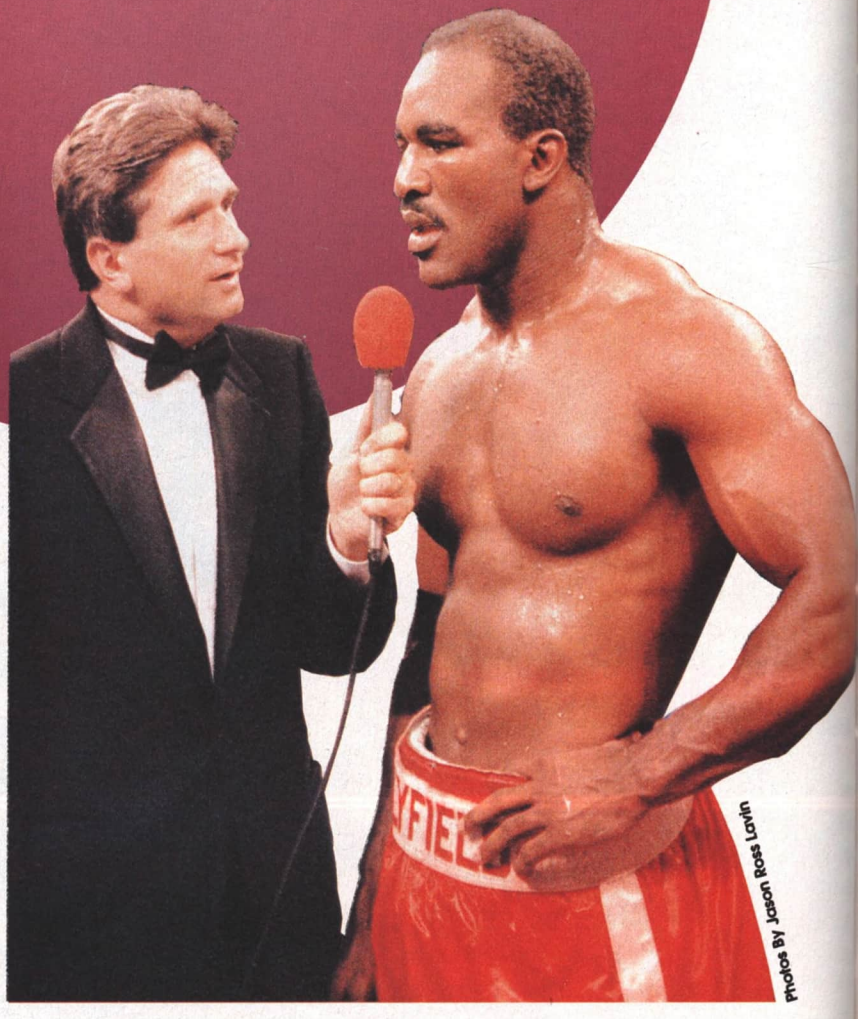
Evander Holyfield just can't seem to catch a break. While his 12-round yawner over Alex Stewart wasn't the most exciting fight of the year, he did win, didn't he? In fact, he fought much the way he expected he would. But just winning apparently doesn't cut it anymore. Of course if anyone should know that by now, it's Holyfield. Who else could have his stock rise after a loss and fall after a win?

The basic problem was that the 9,400 fans at Atlantic City's Convention Center, and whoever stayed awake long enough to tune in on pay-per-view, didn't want to see Holyfield just win. He had to look good. Maybe score a knockout, or at least floor his opponent. Perhaps scare ringside onlooker Riddick Bowe a bit. But when half of a near-capacity crowd departs before the final bell, and the other half has one foot out the exit door before the referee raises the winner's hand, you get the idea the customers weren't pleased. (The constant booing from round five on could have given you that impression as well.)

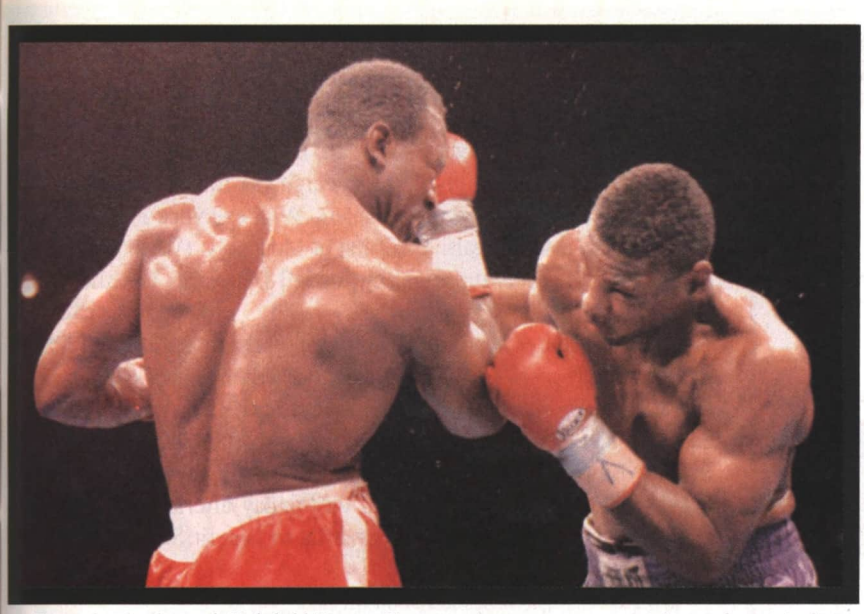
"I came out and fought the fight I feel it will take to win the heavyweight championship of the world," said the forever defensive former champ. "I can't go toe to toe with all these guys. People rise to the occasion. In the Bowe fight, everybody praised me, but I didn't win. This time I got the victory, but a lot of people are disappointed. I fought a fight that will not only benefit me today, but for the championship as well."

The championship he wants, of course, belongs to Bowe, who left Holyfield-Stewart before half the fight was over. With WBC champion Lennox Lewis nearing a deal with Tommy Morrison, Bowe couldn't stand to see a Holyfield rematch devalue before his very eyes. Either that or he was falling asleep.

Also exiting prematurely was Holyfield's pal, Pernell Whitaker. "Sweet Pea" had a good



Photos By Jason Ross Lavin



Rematches be damned: Holyfield-Stewart II was nowhere near as entertaining as the original.

seat and tried to spur his stablemate on with encouragement. When his words didn't work, he headed for the Boardwalk.

Perhaps expectations were just a bit too high. Maybe they have always been. During Holyfield's 25-month stint as world champion, he was ripped for defending against dinosaurs George Foreman and Larry Holmes. When he brawled, as he did against Bert Cooper, he was ripped for lacking defense. When he was patient and smart in bouts against Foreman and Holmes, he was ripped for lacking offense. He can win his fights, but he can't win over his critics.

Holyfield deserved some slack for what occurred in Atlantic City; he was coming off a long layoff and working with a new trainer, Emanuel Steward. Remember, he's been beaten only once, and he certainly has never embarrassed himself.

The lack of a knockout punch, however, continues to hurt him both in and out of the ring. Since crushing Buster Douglas, Holyfield has registered one knockdown in 55 rounds. Against Stewart, Holyfield, 29-1 (22), entered the ring a bulked-up, but hardly unflattering, 218 pounds. (He scaled 205 for Bowe.) He had a chance to boost his image and leave no questions about whether he deserved a rematch with Bowe. As he climbed through the ropes, he was cheered lustily, reflecting the fact that since losing the title to Bowe last November, he has gained a newfound popularity. Unfortunately, there was a fight ahead of him. And, worse yet, his opponent was a reluctant warrior.

Due to poor luck—42 of a possible 44 undercard rounds were fought—most of Holyfield-Stewart was fought after midnight. In fact, all but three minutes of it. Strike One.

In the final undercard bout, the crowd was treated to a carnival-like ending to an otherwise drab Vinny Pazienza-Lloyd Honeyghan affair, which included New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard flying into the ring to stop the fight, and pro wrestling's Capt. Lou Albano very nearly starting a new one. Tough acts to follow. Strike Two.

If Holyfield-Stewart had unfolded like their exciting November 1989 bout, which ended with Holyfield an eighth-round TKO winner, everyone would have been happy. There might have even been a smile on the face of Stewart, who was justifiably embarrassed by his lackluster performance in the rematch. But the fight was a dud, and the media was fully prepared to grill Holyfield. That wasn't quite fair. Doesn't it take two to make a fight?

After the first round, it was as clear as Pazienza's nose is crooked that neither fighter planned to punch much. Holyfield hurt his opponent in the opening round with an uppercut, and followed with a flurry that drew blood over Stewart's left eye. For a moment, it seemed we would all get a good night's sleep.

But Stewart, 32-5 (25), sensed that as well, and did the safest thing he could think of: He wrapped himself in a shell, which allowed the fight to continue for what seemed like an eternity. Stewart stopped throwing punches, and Holyfield scored just enough to win nearly every round. Why risk getting caught with the shot Stewart may have been saving for the last four years?

By round two, boredom had already hit, and if you fell asleep in your balcony seat, you might not have awakened until your leg was brushed by someone running for the exits. This was "The Bore At The Shore." Strike Three, everyone is out.

"Evander Holyfield has given us nothing but wars for 10 years," said Steward. "He's entitled to a normal fight."

But it wasn't supposed to be normal, not

(Continued on page 52)

At the postfight press conference, Stewart's handlers were as glum as the loser.

TRYING TO WIN AN OSCAR

JOHN-JOHN MOLINA'S ONLY HOPE FOR STARDOM

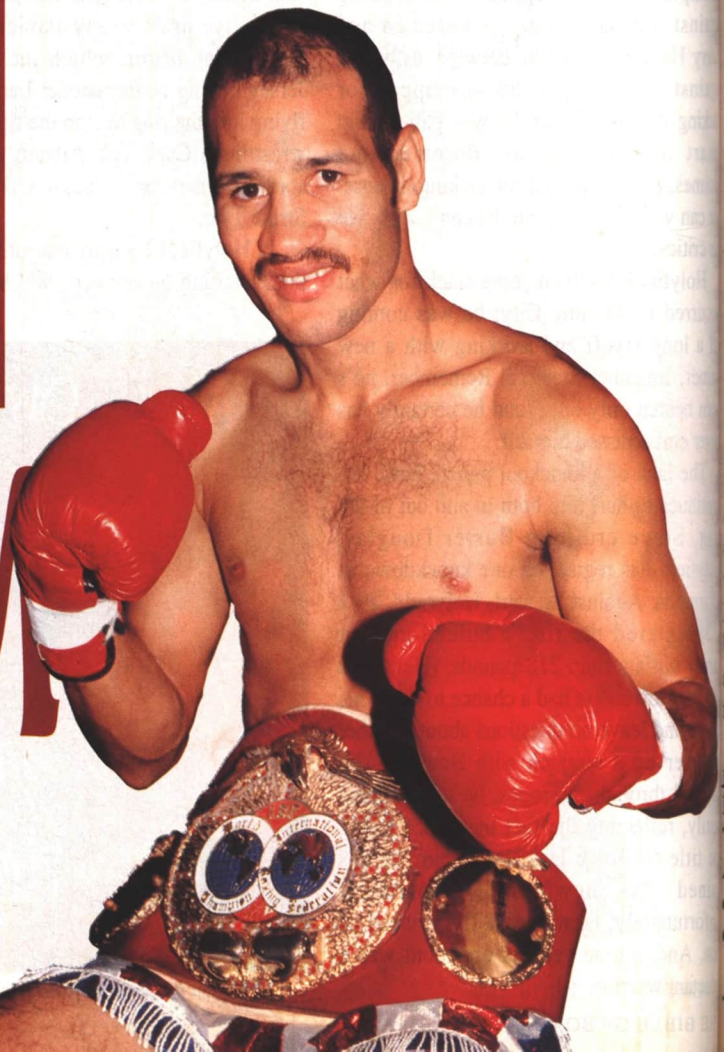
By Steve Farhood

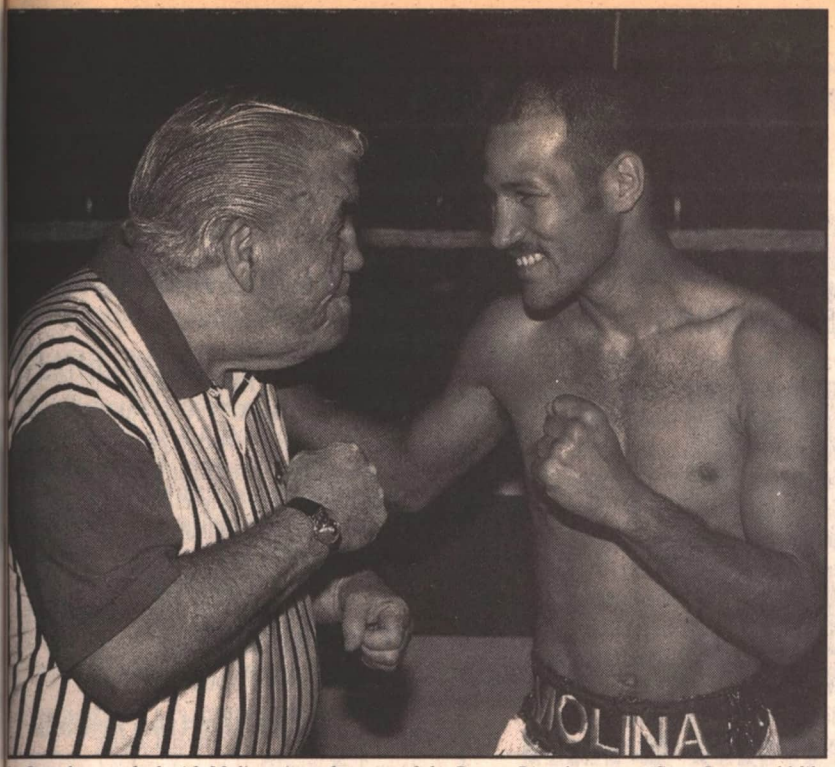
It was a busy boxing week, the kind that, in better times, Atlantic City hosted every couple of months. There were press conferences and production trucks, pre-dawn runs on the Boardwalk and late-afternoon workouts in the ballrooms, lots of weigh-ins for the fighters, and precious few ways out for the gamblers. With everyone moving from hotel to hotel, it was a real-life version of Monopoly. (When the boxing crowd rolls the dice, those get-out-of-jail-free cards are always in demand.)

Michael Moorer headlined Tuesday night's fights at the Taj. At Resorts, Friday night's $125-a-plate boxing writers dinner (Joe Frazier, Floyd Patterson) was followed by Cedric Kushner's heavyweight card on Saturday afternoon (Bert Cooper and Bonecrusher Smith in the ring, and Riddick Bowe seated ringside). Saturday night's pay-per-view show filled the Convention Center. And on Sunday afternoon at the Taj, Donald Trump's auction of memorabilia to benefit Sergei Artemiev closed the show.

It wasn't hard to miss John-John Molina.

Saturday night's big show had Evander Holyfield and Vinny Pazienza, and, to add a touch of legitimacy, Capt. Lou Albano and Andrew Dice Clay. You couldn't help but wonder whether Molina had been included only for the few thousand Hispanic PPV buys the Puerto Rican fighter and his opponent, Mexico's Manuel Medina, were likely to





Lou Duva has worked with Molina since the start of the Puerto Rican's career. Capt. Lou would like his charge to square off against Oscar De La Hoya.

inspire. After all, John-John is a nice-nice fighter and a good-good champion, but does he really mean anything in Atlantic City?

Was he really even there?

***

Told that THE RING was planning a story on Molina, co-managers Shelly Finkel and Lou Duva were eager to cooperate. Molina has been, off and on, a world champion for the last five years, but if he hasn't been overshadowed by colorful arch-rival Tony Lopez, it's been one of his current or former superstar stablemates, Pernell Whitaker or Tyrell Biggs or Meldrick Taylor or Mark Breland or Holyfield. There are a lot of talented world champions in this world, and Molina is a good, not great, fighter who doesn't speak English. It's understandable, then, that the Duva publicity machine hasn't wasted too much juice on him. But if Molina can get one break, just one big break. Let's say a big-bucks, high profile showdown fight on HBO against the right fighter ...

Four days before he defended the IBF junior lightweight title against Medina, Molina spoke with a pair of reporters at the Trump Regency. Only a few feet away, Alex Stewart, who has never beaten a contender, much less won a world championship, was surrounded by writers from *Sports Illustrated* and New York's power newspapers. Ah, to be a heavyweight.

Molina, who has fought his entire pro career for Finkel and Duva, was talking through an interpreter about his more celebrated stablemates. He smiled a lot and sounded like a good soldier.

"It hasn't bothered me at all," he said of their celebrated status. "They've all helped me. They were all gold medal winners; that's why they've made all the money."

"He's strictly a good kid," chipped in Lou Duva. "He helps people, he's not a superstar. He even volunteered to box with Whitaker to help him prepare for the Chavez fight."

Sparring with Pernell Whitaker surely isn't going to bring a shift of the spotlight. Nor is chalking up a victory over Manuel Medina. Is there a way, then, *any* way, that Molina can become a legitimate star? Well, there's one way, but it's a longshot ...

***

It was about 20 years ago that John-John Molina's mother decided one fighter in the family was enough. Molina's brother Jose was a Pan-Am Games gold medalist, but John-John had more talent, and when the native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, was ready to turn pro, Finkel was waiting.

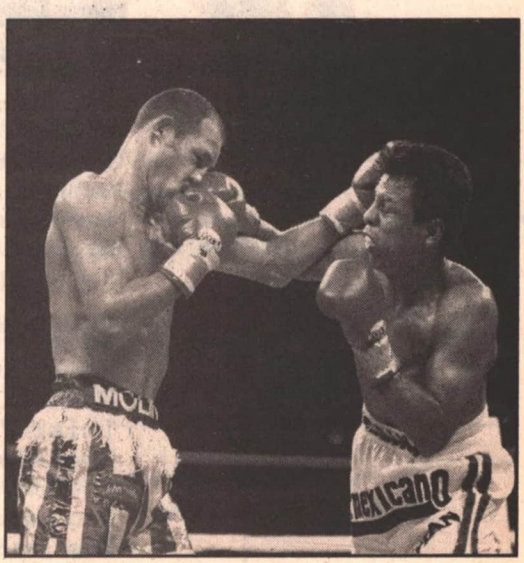
"George Washington, who was training Mark Breland," said to me, " 'You should see this kid,'" Finkel recalled. "John-John had just won the World Cup. Dan had contacts in Puerto Rico, and we signed him."

Molina won 18 of his first 19 pro bouts, losing only to Lupe Suarez in one of 1987's fights of the year. The first part of his career as a world-class junior lightweight revolved around his three fights with Lopez. In October 1988, he clearly outfought the defending IBF champion in Lopez' hometown of Sacramento, but was denied the decision. The rematch came one year later, also in "The Tiger's" backyard, and Molina scored a bloody 10th-round stoppage. He kept the crown for one defense (against Suarez), and then lost on points in a rubber match vs. Lopez.

"I have nothing personal against Lopez," Molina said. "But I didn't like fighting in his hometown three times. [Actually, their third fight was in Reno.] I'll fight him anywhere neutral. I feel I'm the better fighter."

As soon as Lopez rose to lightweight, Molina found an easier path. In February '92, he won the vacant IBF title by again fighting on the road and crushing South Africa's badly overmatched Jackie

(Continued on page 55)



Molina's June defense against former featherweight champion Manuel Medina offered 12 fast-paced rounds of aggressive boxing. Molina won on points.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Evander Holyfield W 12 Alex Stewart
Michael Moorer KO 3 James Pritchard
Corrie Sanders KO 3 Bert Cooper
Phil Jackson KO 3 Poncho Carter
Bonecrusher Smith KO 9 Kevin Ford
Alexandre Zolkin KO 4 J.B. Williamson
Frans Botha KO 2 Calvin Jones
Mark Wills W 8 Vince Jones
Craig Payne KO 6 Bobby Crabtree
Renaldo Snipes KO 2 Eddie Curry
Jimmy Thunder KO 2 David Ravu Ravu
Johnny DuPlooy KO 6 Samson Mahlangu
Adilson Rodrigues KO 6 Teo Arvizu
Tom Glesby KO 4 Conroy Nelson
David Tua KO 2 Bruce Johnson
Montell Griffin KO 3 Ron Stringer
Montell Griffin KO 2 Randy McGaugh
Buster Mathis Jr. KO 5 Carl Williams
Donnell Nicholson KO 1 Nick Kendricks
Mark Gastineau KO 3 Terry Miller

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Akim Tafer W 8 Rickey Parkey
Marcelo Figueroa KO 1 Len Edwards
Robert Daniels KO 9 James Flowers
Massimiliano Duran KO 11 Derek Angol
Jade Scott KO 3 Robert Hill
Nestor Giovannini W 12 Markus Bott
Kenny Keene KO 5 Danny Stonewalker
Grover Robinson KO 4 Pedro Cortez

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Prince Charles Williams KO 7 Art Baylis
Graciano Rocchigiani W 8 Lester Yarbrough
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 5 Alberto Barrero
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 8 Noel Magee
Jean-Marie Emebe KO 5 Lindell Holmes
Greg Ballard KO 9 Steve Darnell
Rudy Nix KO 4 Alvino Manson

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Nigel Benn KO 4 Lou Gent
(Retains WBC Title)
Tim Littles W 10 Warren Williams
Victor Cordoba W 8 Tony Booth
Tony Thornton KO 7 Frank Minton
Henry Wharton KO 3 Royan Hammond
Merqui Sosa KO 6 Mark Buchanan
Roberto Duran W 10 Jacques LeBlanc
Salvadore DiSalvatore W Disq. 8 Edip Secovic
Chris Byrd KO 1 Mike Sullivan

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Lamar Parks W 10 Danny Garcia
Vinny Pazienza KO 10 Lloyd Honeyghan
Lupe Aquino KO 2 Eric Valdez
Lupe Aquino KO 1 Pat Halloway
Julio Cesar Green KO 5 Ricky Thomas
Steve Collins KO 7 Gerhard Botes

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Terry Norris KO 3 Troy Waters
(Retains WBC Title)
Aaron Davis KO 2 Harold Bennett
Laurent Boudouani KO 4 Andy Till
Gilbert Baptist KO 5 Martin Quiroz
Glenwood Brown KO 3 Brian Nitz
Emmett Linton W 10 Miguel Dominguez
Kevin Lueshing KO 5 Kirkland Laing
Robert Wangila KO 5 Will Hernandez
Lonny Beasley W 10 Tony Marshall

WELTERWEIGHTS

Felix Trinidad KO 2 Maurice Blocker
(Wins IFB Title)
Maurice Blocker KO 2 Steven Langley
(Non-Title Bout)
Yori Boy Campas KO 8 Louis Howard
Kevin Pompey D 12 Nick Rupa
Stephan Johnson KO 4 Wilber Kiggundu
David Gonzalez W 10 Anthony Jones
Ike Quartey W 10 Moise Rivera
Oba Carr KO 2 Gilberto Flores
Hector Camacho KO 7 Tom Alexander
Freddie Ladd KO 5 Howard Stern
Wilfredo Rivera W 10 Lonnie Smith
Derrell Coley W 10 Darryl Lattimore
Todd Foster KO 3 Mark Brannon
Gert Bo Jacobsen W 8 David Taylor
Ludovic Proto KO 4 Lyn Jackson

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Juan Coggi KO 5 Hiroyuki Yoshino
(Retains WBA Title)
Kostya Tszyu KO 1 Robert Rivera
Roger Mayweather W 10 Carl Griffith
David Kamau KO 2 Fidel Avendano
Joey Gamache KO 5 Bobby Amsler
Darryll Tyson D 10 Livingstone Bramble
Pedro Sanchez KO 7 Jesus Rojas
Ray Oliveira KO 4 Juan Torres
Jan Bergman KO 10 Victor Baranov
Lance Holcomb KO 9 Darren Brennan
Billy Costello W 8 Juan Ramon Romero

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Dingaan Thobela W 12 Tony Lopez
(Wins WBA Title)
David Sample W 10 Nigel Wenton
Eduardo Molina KO 3 Yiris Chamorro
Eugene Speed KO 1 Dominic McGuigan
Racheed Lawal D 10 Evgeni Burchak
Lamar Murphy W 10 John Brown
Johnny Montantesz KO 2 Pee Wee Parker

Juan Negron KO 8 Peter Nieves
Edward Mogemi KO 1 Jerry Ngobeni
Ivan Robinson KO 5 Richard DeJesus

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

John-John Molina W 12 Manuel Medina
(Retains IBF Title)
Genaro Hernandez KO 8 Raul Perez
(Retains WBA Title)
Jacobin Yoma W 12 Regilio Tuur

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Kevin Kelley KO 2 Adolpho Castillo
Stephane Haccoun W 10 Fabrice Benichou
Ever Beleno KO 2 Lorenzo Tizado
Hector Lizarraga KO 9 Francisco Valdez
Maui Diaz KO 2 Agapito Navarro
Thanomjit Kiatringkrai KO 6 Javier Leon
Steve Robinson KO 9 Sean Murphy
Francisco Arreola W 10 Julian Flores
Louie Espinoza W 10 Abe Gomez
Billy Hardy W 10 Angel Fernandez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Wilfredo Vasquez KO 10 Thierry Jacob
(Retains WBA Title)

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Orlando Canizales No Dec. 3 Derrick Whiteboy
(Retains IBF Title)
Junior Jones KO 2 Francisco Gomez
Rafael Del Valle W 12 Happy Lora
Ricardo Vargas W 12 Marcelo Nava
In Joo Cho W 10 Abraham Torres
Johnny Armour W 10 Boualem Belkif

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Sung Kil Moon W 12 Carlos Salazar
(Retains WBC Title)
Khaoyai Mahasarakam W 10 Primo Erasan
Jose Quirino KO 9 Juan Carazo
Jesus Herrera D 10 Angel Rosario-Garcia

FLYWEIGHTS

David Griman KO 8 Hiroki Ioka
(Retains WBA Title)
Scotty Olson KO 6 Mario Alberto Cruz
John Michael Johnson KO 6 Arturo Estrada
Robbie Regan W 10 Adrian Ochoa
Jose DeJesus KO 1 Juan Camero

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Pablo Tiznado
Miguel Angel Granados KO 5 Andy Tabanas
Javier Varguez KO 6 Rafael Orozco

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez KO 2 Saman Sorjaturong
(Retains WBC Title)
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin KO 7 Ala Villamor
(Retains IBF Title)

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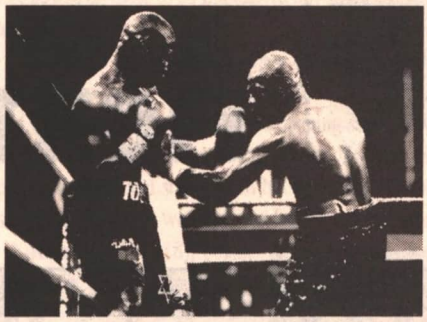

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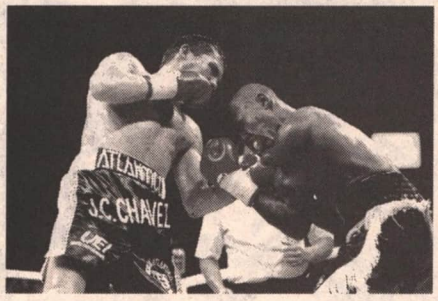

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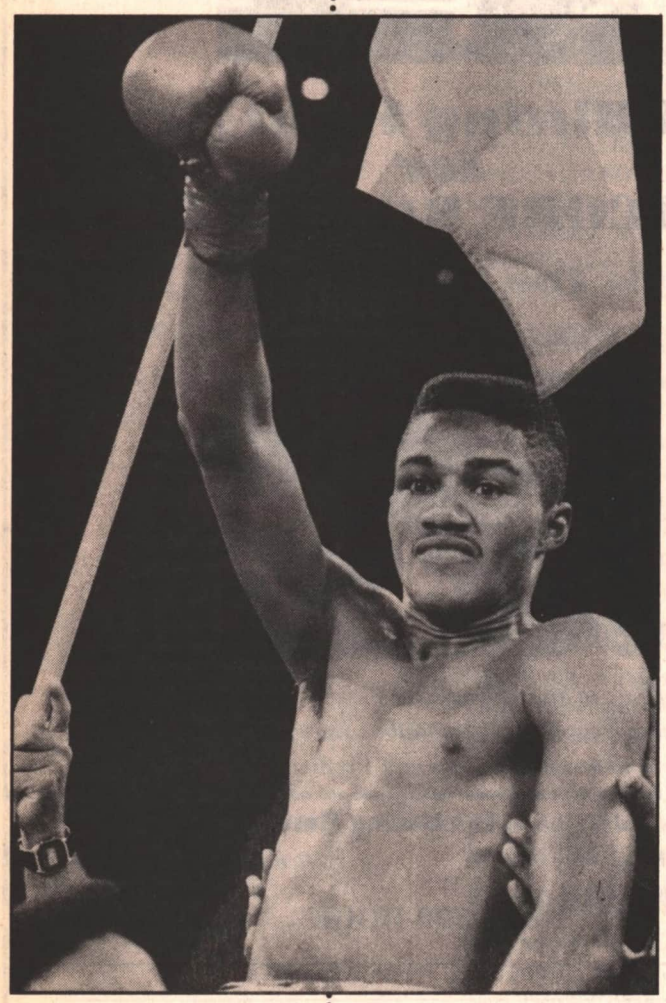
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH



When Puerto Rican fighters command the international stage, they make sure to do so with a flourish. Wilfred Benitez was 17 when he won the junior welterweight title by brilliantly outboxing the masterful Antonio Cervantes. Esteban DeJesus not only issued Roberto Duran his first loss, but drove him to the floor in doing so. Wilfredo Gomez crushed unbeaten kayo artist Carlos Zarate as if he were a prelim fighter.

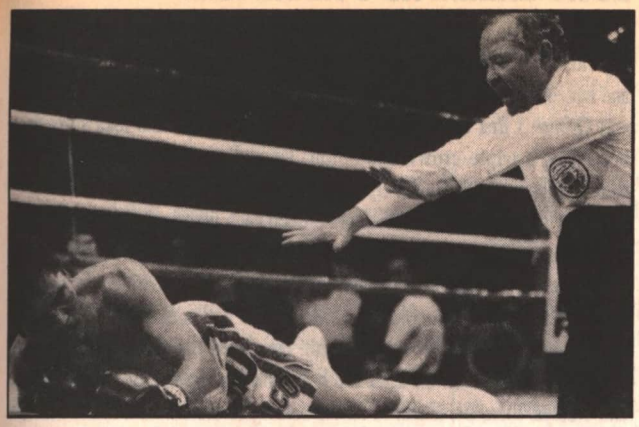
And now there's Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

In taking the IBF welterweight title from Maurice Blocker, Trinidad looked like a future superstar. Whether he is that good, or whether Blocker was nothing more than a shot fighter, remains to be seen. In the meantime, keep in mind that Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez aren't the only welterweights worthy of our attention.

••••

Felix Trinidad

Genaro Hernandez KO 8 Raul Perez



Moret signaled safe, but Perez was out

Inglewood, California-"Jibaro" Perez' attempt to become only the second Mexican fighter to win world titles in three divisions came to an abrupt end at the Great Western Forum when Hernandez' vicious left hook to the liver put him down and out at 2:11 of round eight. Hernandez, 130, Los Angeles, made his fifth defense of the WBA junior lightweight title.

In the same ring in April, Hernandez and Perez had fought a bout that was halted after 28 seconds because an unintentional butt opened a 22-stitch wound high on the challenger's forehead. This time, Perez, 140, Tijuana, suffered a systematic beating. He did not look like the fighter who had won world titles at bantamweight and junior featherweight; he was slow, his punches lacked authority, and he had no defense for Hernandez' lead rights and hooks to the body.

Perez, 50-4-3 (32), suffered a cut over his right eye in the third, and by round six his eye was almost closed. The punch that ended the fight came suddenly, but Hernandez had weakened Perez with a body attack from the first round. After seven rounds, Hernandez, 28-0-1 (14), led by two scores of 69-64 (Dominican Republic's Oscar Perez and USA's Larry Rozadilla) and 70-63 (Panama's Guillermo Perez). The referee was Lou Moret (USA). The attendance was 5,298.

"I didn't think it would finish that way, but I'll take it any way it comes," said Hernandez. "I look forward to meeting Oscar De La Hoya in the autumn."

(6-28-93)

David Wood

Ratanapol Sow Vorapin KO 7 Ala Villamor

Bangkok, Thailand-In a battle of southpaws, Sow Vorapin, 104, Thailand, overpowered the highly regarded and top-ranked Villamor, 101, Philippines, dropped him three times, and retained the IBF mini flyweight title by TKO at 2:01 of the seventh round at Gymnasium One of National Stadium. It was his second defense.

The sharpshooting Villamor was the prefight favorite, but Sow Vorapin justified his nickname of "Little Khaosai" by displaying awesome power. Villamor, an upright stylist, boxed neatly for the first two minutes of the opening round. When the champion connected with a straight left, however, the Filipino wobbled. Villamor, 24-1-1 (22), rebounded to take round two, but from the third on, Sow Vorapin, 14-2-1 (10), dominated.

Sow Vorapin swarmed, sending Villamor to the canvas with straight lefts in the fifth and sixth. A furious flurry again downed the challenger in the seventh, at which point Villamor's cornerman, Juanito Ablaca, surrendered by entering the ring.

After six rounds, Sow Vorapin led by three scores of 59-53. The judges were Jim Traylor (USA), Vincent Rodriguez (Philippines), and Komol Patanapakdee (Thailand). The referee was Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand).

Promoter: Colonel Banju Ongsangkoon's Blue Corner Promotions

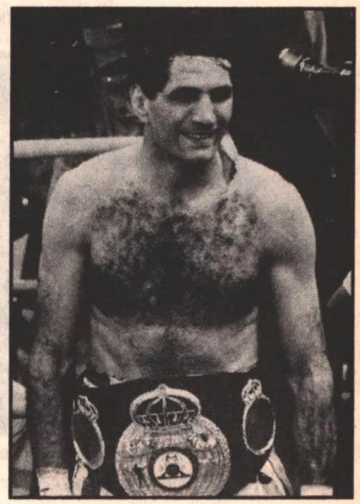
(6-27-93)

Joe Koizumi

Juan Coggi KO 5 Hiroyuki Yoshino

Tokyo, Japan-WBA junior welterweight champion Coggi, 140, Argentina, proved too strong and ringwise for Japan's Yoshino, 140, scoring three knockdowns en route to an impressive kayo victory at 2:15 of the fifth round at Korakuen Hall.

The 25-year-old Yoshino dropped down from welterweight (where he had retained the national title 14 times) and hoped to capitalize on his advantages in speed and youth. He attacked in the opening session, with Coggi, a southpaw, taking round two with several straight lefts. Yoshino pinned Coggi against the ropes in the third and scored with his trademark left hooks, but the Argentine answered in the fourth with jabs and left uppercuts to the face and body.



Coggi wins on the road

Yoshino, 24-5-1 (18), began to weaken, and many of his punches were off the mark. In the fifth, the 31-year-old Coggi, 62-2-2 (37), exploded with a wicked left, and Yoshino dropped to the floor. Knockdown number two was produced by a right hook and followup flurry. Bleeding from the nose, Yoshino rose again, only to be knocked down by another left. At that point, referee Rafael Ramos raised Coggi's hand without issuing a count.

After four rounds, Coggi led on two cards, with the third even. Manuel Gonzalez (Panama) and Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand) both had it 39-37, and Elias Quintana (USA) 38-38.

Promoter: Munekatsu Kawaragi's Kyokuto Promotions

(6-23-93)

Joe Koizumi

Sung Kil Moon W 12 Carlos Salazar

Seoul, South Korea-Bleeding heavily, WBC super flyweight champion Moon, 115, remained aggressive and overcame the counterpunching of Argentine southpaw Salazar, 114½, to keep the crown at the Seoul Education Culture Center.

It was expected to be an easy defense for Korea's Moon; the 30-year-old Salazar, 30-4-3 (12), had displayed minimal power as a flyweight. But the veteran proved both clever and durable. He took two of the first three rounds, and in the second, Moon began bleeding from a gash under his right eyebrow. In the sixth, his corner asked referee Toby Gibson to call a halt based on the butt rule and send the bout to the judges. But Gibson ruled that the cut had been opened by legal blows, and as a result, the fighters resumed trading blows.

Constantly moving forward, Moon, 20-1 (16), got inside in the late rounds, but was floored by a well-timed left in the 12th. He nonetheless retained the crown for the ninth time by split scores of 116-111 (the USA's Karl Milligan),

116-112 (Australia's Malcolm Bulner), and 114-115 (the USA's Rudy Jordan). Had Salazar been just a bit more aggressive, he would have taken the title home to Buenos Aires.

Promoter: Alan Kim's Moris Promotions

(7-3-93)

Joe Koizumi

Terry Norris KO 3 Troy Waters

San Diego, California-If you bet on WBC super welterweight champion Norris and laid the 30-1 odds, how did you feel in the second round, when the fifth-ranked Waters, nicknamed "The Glamour With The Hammer," landed a right that left "Terrible Terry" on all fours? Probably worse than Norris did.

The champion's ninth defense came at the Sports Arena in his adopted hometown. Norris, 154, Campo, California, wanted to impress his fans, and he showed off in a glorious first round, during which the 28-year-old Waters, 152, Sydney, Australia, was overwhelmed. Only a few seconds after the opening bell, Norris connected with a left-right, and shortly after, Waters, his guard high, was taking shots along the ropes. When Norris landed a left hook to the

Norris and Waters made King smile

body, a left uppercut, and an overhand right, Waters crashed. But Norris made the mistake of hitting the challenger while he was on his knees (which he has done before), and referee Marty Denkin deducted a point. When Waters rose, almost two minutes remained in the round. Somehow, he managed to survive.

"I'm a pretty tough sonuvabitch," he pointed out.

Norris opened the second with two huge rights, but he was ignoring defense, and Waters suddenly responded with a right that dropped the champion. (As if returning a favor, Waters struck Norris with a left-right while the champion was on the canvas. There was no penalty.)

"I celebrated too early; [the knockdown] made me wake up," Norris said.

Norris dominated the rest of the round. He seemed to tire, however, which enabled Waters to fare well during an inspired toe-to-toe exchange. Waters scored with a big right just before the bell, and Norris landed a hook after it.

Early in the third, Waters, 20-3 (14), was bleeding from cuts around both eyes. Norris, 35-3 (21), broke through, producing a second knockdown with a right. Waters continued to absorb tremendous punishment, and when Denkin asked the ringside doctor to check the Australian's cuts, he was told to give him one more round. Waters' corner was less generous, and between the third and fourth, trainer Bruce Kennedy surrendered.

The judges were Salvador Placencia (Mexico), Gus Mercurio (Australia), and Hank Elespuru (USA). The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(6-19-93)

David Griman KO 8 Hiroki Ioka

Osaka, Japan-Slick-punching Venezuelan Griman, 112, displayed his superior speed and skills, battered Japanese challenger Ioka, 112, as he pleased, and halted him at 2:38 of the eighth round at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium. It was Griman's first defense of the WBA flyweight title, and Ioka's first try at becoming a triple-crown champion; he had previously held the WBC strawweight and WBA junior flyweight crowns.

The fighters carefully jabbed and probed each other's defenses for the first two rounds, with Griman taking the first and the lanky Ioka the second. Griman accelerated in the third, and Ioka never threatened again.

The 26-year-old champion controlled inside action in the third and scored with several strong hooks in the fourth. He mixed his attack in the fifth and sixth, punching to both the head and body and connecting with right uppercuts and crosses. Ioka, 24, began to take a beating in the seventh, and while there were no knockdowns, referee Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia) was justified in the eighth, when he halted the contest with Ioka, 22-4-1 (10), taking a battering along the ropes. At the time of the stoppage, all three judges, Panama's Rodolfo Hill, Canada's Guy Jutras, and the Philippines' Silvestre Abainza, had Griman, 18-1 (12), in front by 69-64.

Promoter: Hirokai Tsuda's Green Tsuda Promotions

(6-21-93)

Joe Koizumi

Nigel Benn KO 4 Lou Gent

London, England-"The Dark Destroyer" produced a typically exhilarating, ruthless, and occasionally vulnerable performance in overcoming the challenge of fellow Londoner Gent at the Olympia. Now Benn, the WBC super middleweight champion, can concentrate on an October rematch with arch-rival Chris Eubank, which will reportedly be worth more than $1-million to each fighter. (Eubank stopped Benn in November 1990.)

This was the 29-year-old Benn's third defense, and he climbed through the ropes a 4-1 favorite. Characteristically aggressive, Benn, 167½, wasted little time in firing a number of stiff rights, which impelled Gent into throwing a retaliatory short right that momentarily fazed the champion. Benn immediately responded, but the remaining exchanges were evenly contested.

Gent, 168, pressed the action in round two. Midway through, the 28-year-old challenger, who had fought as heavy as cruiserweight, launched a torrent of punches, most of which Benn slipped. Nonetheless, he earned both the round and Benn's respect.

The third round was straight out of *Rocky*, with Gent being felled in devastating fashion three times and Benn rocked to his boots at least twice. Knockdown number one came 30 seconds in, the product of a hard right and followup hook. Gent barely managed to beat referee Larry O'Connell's count and fought back with a hook and uppercut that left Benn groggy. Halfway through, Gent went crashing again from a left hook-straight right. Thirty seconds later Benn seemed on the verge of being knocked out himself, but he rebounded to record a third knockdown just before the bell.

When Gent went down twice more early in the fourth, the bout was called at the 35-second mark. Benn advanced to 37-2 (32). Gent dropped to 22-9-2 (11).

The judges were Mickey Vann (England), Adrian Morgan (Wales), and Bill Rafferty (Scotland).

"Last time Eubank prepared for me and I never really prepared for him," said Benn. "But this time I'll be ready."

(6-26-93)

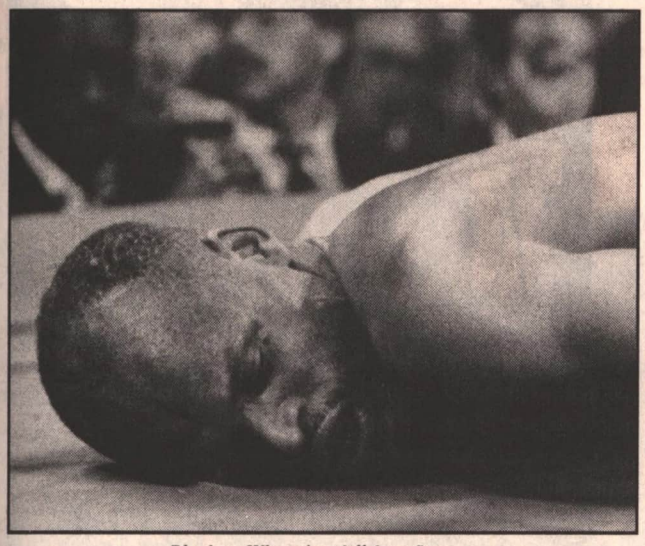
Brian Doogan

Felix Trinidad KO 2 Maurice Blocker

San Diego, California-The chief support to Norris-Waters at the Sports Arena, Trinidad-Blocker was no less violent than the main event. A relative unknown, "Tito" Trinidad, 145½, Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, exploded late in the first round and took the IBF welterweight title in a blowout that underlined Blocker's inability to take a punch.

In February, Blocker, 146, Germantown, Maryland, moved up and challenged WBC super welterweight champion Norris. He failed miserably, suffering a second-round TKO. This bout, his second defense of his second 147-pound reign, suggested that he never really recovered.

Trinidad, a 20-year-old counterpuncher in the mold of fellow islanders Wilfred Benitez and Edwin Rosario, had earned his title try—he was ranked seventh—by defeating, among others, rugged New Yorker Jake Rodriguez and Argentine veteran Alberto Cortes. He waited on Blocker in a careful first round, and then connected with a booming right with 10 seconds left.



Blocker: When they fall face-first ...

At the bell, Blocker stumbled to his corner.

Free to proceed without caution, Trinidad, 20-0 (17), attacked in the second. Three big rights backed up Blocker, 35-4 (19), and another string of powerpunches halfway through the round left the champion on the verge of going down. The deciding blows came in the form of a hook-right combination. Blocker fell face-first, with Trinidad adding another hook-right as the 30-year-old "Thin Man" was toppling. Referee Robert Byrd (USA) didn't bother to count. The time of the kayo was 1:49.

The judges were Gwen Adair (USA), Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico), and Paul Artisst (USA). The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(6-19-93)

Orlando Canizales No-Decision 3 Derrick Whiteboy

Houston, Texas-Canizales' hopes for a 12th consecutive triumphant defense of the IBF bantamweight title were dashed by a deep cut on his left eyelid after a third-round clash of heads with Whiteboy, 115¾, Capetown, South Africa. Dr. Jorge Guerrero, the ringside physician, wouldn't let Canizales, 118, Laredo, Texas, continue, and the bout, held at The Summit, was declared a no-decision at 1:23 of the third round.

"I'm upset something like this had to happen today," said Canizales, 33-1-1 (26) with 1 no-decision. "I hadn't fought in Houston in a long time [since November 1987], and I wanted to give the people a good show, show them I am the bantamweight champion of the world.

"I know we crashed heads. All of a sudden I started bleeding, and I felt the pain. I thought, *No, no, not in two rounds!*"

Whiteboy, 32-2-1 (20), was just as disappointed.

"I was prepared," he said. "I was told to wait, not to stay in with Canizales, but to box him. I was looking forward to this show, to taking his title. Unfortunately, those things happen; you've just got to accept it."

Whiteboy circled and ran in the early going, forcing a growingly frustrated Canizales to fruitlessly chase him. A large delegation from Canizales' hometown chanted "Or-lan-do!" from the upper deck, and the champ responded by landing two lefts and a right to the body at the end of the second.

In the third, Whiteboy was improving his timing and beginning to look like a miniature version of Tommy Morrison against George Foreman. It was looking like Canizales would be in for a long, difficult evening when their heads collided and the champion emerged bloodied. (His cut would require 27 stitches at Houston's Methodist Hospital.) It is anticipated he'll need six weeks of rest before he can resume training.

Said Carlos Jacomo, Whiteboy's promoter, "We hope to finish this argument in the ring as soon as possible. It was just starting to be an interesting fight. [Canizales] is lucky, I promise you."

Promoters: Roy Foreman Productions, The Summit, Cedric Kushner

(6-19-93)

Bruce Williams

Dingaan Thobela W 12 Tony Lopez

Sun City, South Africa-South Africa's Thobela, 135, became the WBA lightweight champion by scoring a unanimous decision over defending titlist Lopez, 134¾, Sacramento, California, before a sellout crowd of 7,200 at the Sun City Superbowl.

The bout was a rematch of a February meeting in which Lopez kept the crown by narrow but unanimous decision in his hometown of Sacramento.

The return was a close bout, but the 26-year-old Thobela did not appear to do enough to deserve the verdict. All the aggression and the majority of scoring punches came from Lopez. Thobela's work rate was far too slow, and even though he caught the champion on occasion, he threw punches in flurries and then held or ran.

Lopez, 42-4-1 (29), took the fight to the challenger from the first round and attacked to the body, which paid dividends in the latter part of the fight. Thobela was content to jab and attempt to control the bout from the outside. The middle rounds were close, but Thobela, 29-1-1 (16), was visibly tired by the eighth and Lopez came on with a rally that should have been sufficient to retain the title.

Hector Hernandez (Mexico) and Marco Torres (Panama) both scored 116-114. Venezuelan Fernando Viso's card of 118-112 defied logic.

It was a grueling encounter; Lopez, who was wobbled in the 11th round, finished with a nosebleed and a cut over his left eye, and Thobela, who is nicknamed "The Rose Of Soweto," ended the fight with a badly swollen left eye, which he claimed was the result of a clash of heads.

Lopez offered no excuses and said he had been beaten "by a better man." He added that he's considering a jump to the junior welterweight class.

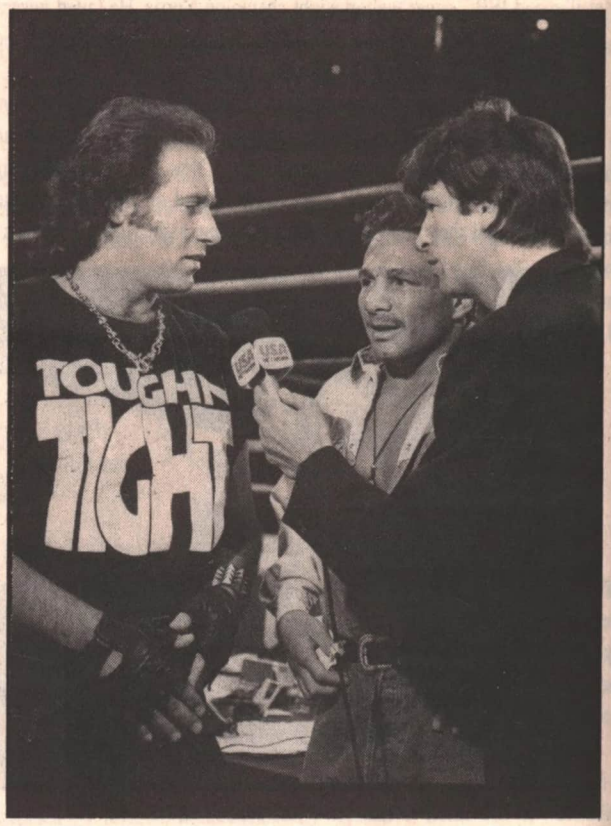
The referee was John Coyle (England).

Promoters: Gerrie Coetzee, Don Chargin, Sun International, Main Events

(9-26-93)

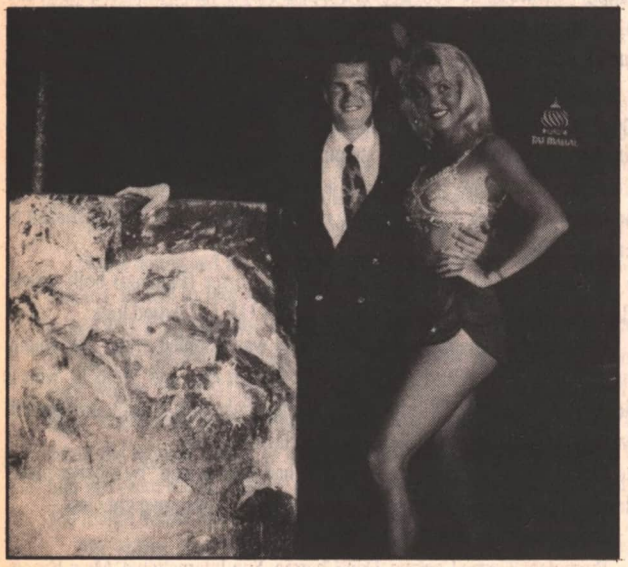
Ron Jackson ■

Camera Clicks

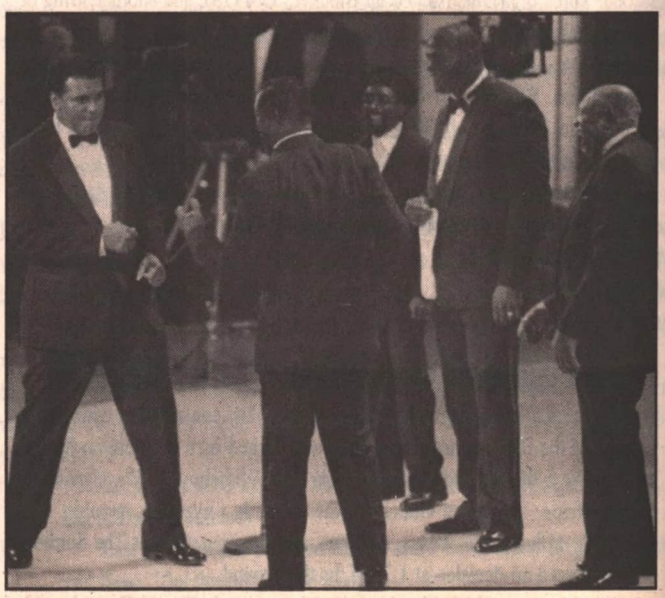


Vinny Pazienza hangs out with a tough crowd. Before "The Pazmanian Devil's" win over Lloyd Honeyghan, the USA Network's Al Albert interviewed Paz and Andrew Dice Clay.

There were numerous former world champs spotted at the Emile Griffith fundraiser at Madison Square Garden: (from left) Carlos Ortiz, Joey Giardello, Griffith, and Jake LaMotta.

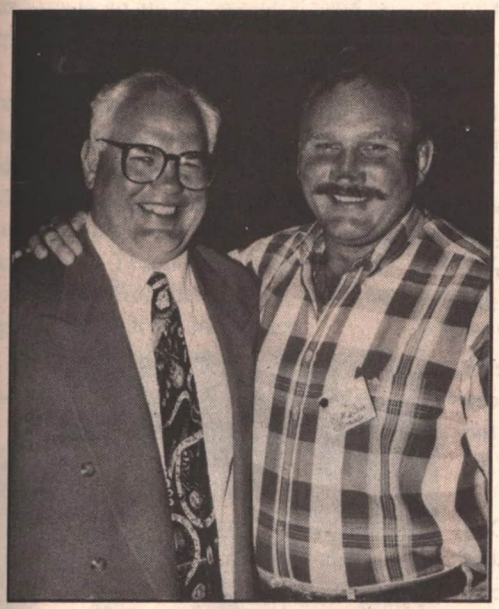


At an Atlantic City auction that raised money for his recovery, lightweight Sergei Artemiev poses with two originals (one a LeRoy Neiman) at the Trump Taj Mahal Hotel.

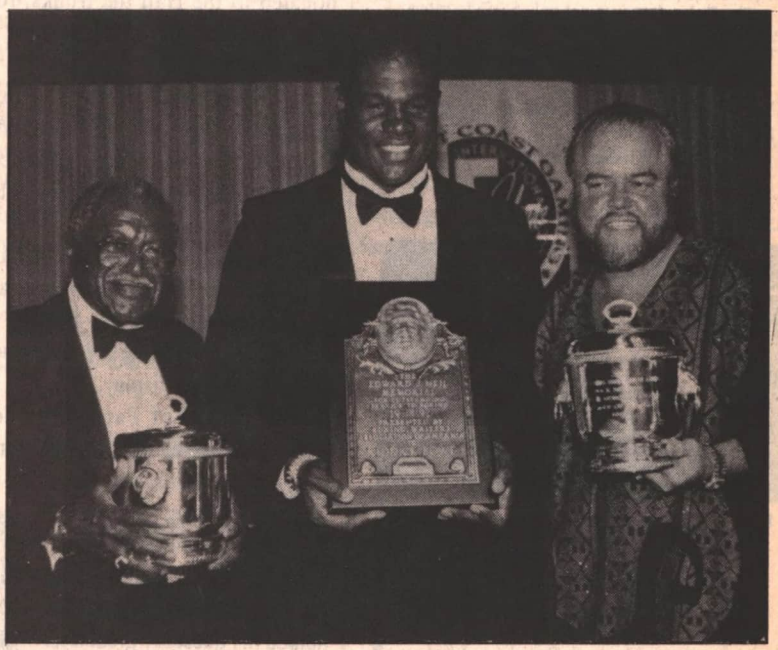


At the National Sports Awards in Washington, D.C., Muhammad Ali jokes with Joe Frazier. Also on stage: Spike Lee, Riddick Bowe, and Archie Moore.

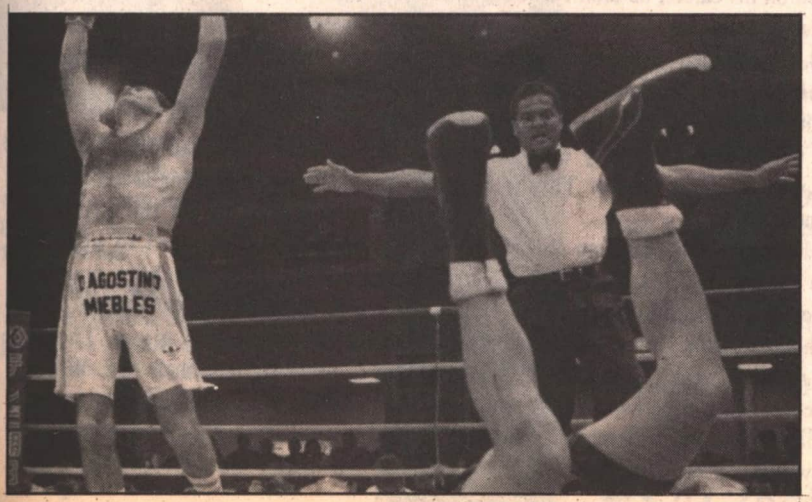
The stars always shine at the International Boxing Hall of Fame induction weekend in Canastota, New York. Former heavyweight champ Joe Frazier signed autographs (above) and cruiserweight Bobby Czyz and wife Kim enjoyed their ride through town (right).



All smiles: Former heavyweights Randy Neumann and Scott LeDoux remain involved in boxing. Neumann is a referee in New Jersey, LeDoux a commissioner in Minnesota.



Winners at the Boxing Writers Association of America annual awards dinner: Trainer Eddie Futch, WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, and manager Rock Newman.



WBA junior welterweight champion Juan Coggi celebrates his victory as referee Rafael Ramos signals the end of the Argentine's defense against Hiroyuki Yoshino, who was kayoed in round five.

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Hagler

(Continued from page 37)

five], but they also come over to visit me."

One of the boxing functions was the Hall of Fame's induction weekend in 1991. Hagler was mobbed at everywhere he went. At the banquet, he delivered a particularly eloquent speech in which he praised each of the inductees. Then he singled out former heavyweight king Floyd Patterson, complimenting the two-time champion for being a positive role model and hero, especially for a left-handed kid from Newark, New Jersey, who went on to hold the middleweight crown for seven years.

Hagler's own induction in June meant so much to the former champion that he donated to the Hall the trunks, robe, and shoes he wore the night he won the title from Minter.

"It took him two days to decide to donate his outfit," said his agent, Peter Deveber. "But he believes so much in this Hall of Fame and felt Canastota is the proper place for it."

To understand what the induction meant to Hagler, you'd have had to have been inside the Hall as his family and the Petronellis, tears in their eyes, witnessed the dedication of his display.

When Hall of Fame President Don Ackerman finished reading Hagler's list of accomplishments, the beaming inductee strode to the lectern to accept a proclamation and a diamond ring. He used the opportunity to thank his family and all the people, especially the Petronellis, who helped his quest for greatness. When Hagler reflected on his career, he didn't talk about the epic battles against Hearns or Mugabi. Instead, he reminded the crowd of what had happened to him in London 13 years ago.

"I didn't get a chance to show my belts to the world," he said. "My moment of glory was taken from me. This is my moment of glory."

He held up the proclamation and the ring to the crowd. His sister, Cheryl, who watched from a window inside the Hall with the rest of the Hagler family, erupted with a heartfelt "yeah!"

The weather was perfect. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and the temperature was in the low-80s. None of the champions who had avoided Hagler in the late-'70s were there. Neither were the two men he had challenged for the title, nor any of his other victims. The barbaric Londoners from Wembley didn't attend, nor did any of the Vegas judges. Sugar Ray wasn't invited, but he did congratulate Hagler in a half-page ad in the Hall's induction program. The moment, at last, belonged to Marvelous Marvin.

Although there were other inductees on hand—former light heavyweight champion Harold Johnson, former middleweight king Joey Giardello, trainer Gil Clancy, and announcer Don Dunphy—the sun shined brightest on the bald-headed one. The 1,000-plus fans who attended the ceremonies were there primarily to see him. Finally, the moment—his moment—had come. It was one, he says, that left the sweetest taste in his mouth. It was so sweet that years from now, if anyone asks him, "Was June 12, 1993, a perfect day?" he'll shake his head, smile, and reply, "It was marvelous." ■

Holyfield

(Continued from page 41)

with powerpunching expert Steward on hand. This was supposed to be the new Holyfield. Hey, he has to try *something* different if he's going to beat Bowe. In the first meeting, there were classic punch-outs, and the 10th round was enough to carry a pay-per-view card by itself. But Holyfield didn't win. And at this point, we have to wonder if he can win a brawl, especially against a fighter who outweighs him by about 30 pounds.

After sitting it out for six months, Holyfield realized his career was about something more than the $80-million he had made; it was about his love of boxing and his yearning to get the title back. He's brought in Steward to help him better utilize what punching power he does have. Whether by kayo or on points, beating Stewart was a given. The new style is for a fight with Bowe. Whether he can outbrawl the champion or frustrate him into a distance fight remains to be seen. No matter his approach, he'll be a

decided underdog.

If the Stewart fight is to be entered as evidence, Holyfield may be better off trimming down to 205 and emphasizing quickness and mobility. He has always been a hard worker, and his speed is important. There was nothing quick about his latest effort.

Rock Newman, Bowe's fiery manager, didn't help promote Bowe-Holyfield II by feeding the media these kind words: "I strongly urge Evander to retire. He took a bad beating last November against Riddick, and his performance against Stewart reflected that. Riddick would surely beat him up even worse the next time. I don't want to see that happen. Evander is too nice a guy to go out that way. He could be seriously hurt if he fights Riddick again."

With precious few heavyweights to choose from, Newman stands to lose more from Holyfield-Stewart II than Holyfield did. Morrison will likely fight Lewis this fall, and the top-rated Michael Moorer isn't viewed as a major pay-per-view opponent. Unless Mike Tyson is suddenly sprung from prison, Holyfield is not only the logical choice, but the only choice.

"Alex Stewart fought a much more defensive fight than we expected," said Steward. "Evander rises to the occasion. He adjusts. He'll be better next fight."

The public will presumably buy the next one if it comes against Bowe. Which puts the Stewart fight into perspective. While the media was hard on Holyfield for failing to damage Stewart, he probably didn't damage his image enough to jeopardize his title match. In time, it will come.

At the postfight press conference, the possibility that Holyfield wanted to fight the way he did was never examined. Steward spoke of the layoff and Holyfield's well-earned reputation as a warrior. Holyfield claimed he didn't need to prove anything, and he still deserved to fight Bowe. Promoter Dan Duva contributed, "Why should [Bowe] give Evander an opportunity? Because we gave it to him." That seemed the bottom line.

If it weren't for Madison Square Garden Boxing promoter Bobby Goodman essentially pleading with the media to ask Stewart a question, we would have only seen the heavyweight slumped in his seat with tears in his eyes.

"Today wasn't one of my better performances," he said. "I started off with a tight defense. That's what I wanted to do. I wanted to take the later rounds and come on offensively. It just wasn't there. The bottom line is the game plan went good the first six rounds, then I couldn't throw punches. Thank you all for coming, and I'm sorry I couldn't perform. That's the way it goes sometimes."

Actually, apologies weren't needed from anyone. On a night where there was more action on the Boardwalk than in the ring, Holyfield could have won the fight *and* entertained the crowd. He chose not to.

Holyfield deserves another chance. There are an endless number of excuses for the fight, and fans would have been wise to visit their dentist rather than watch the replay on the USA Network. But given Holyfield's future, and, more importantly, his past, let's forget about all that.

"I did good, I won the fight," said Holyfield. But the old saying, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game," doesn't hold forth in his case. He needs to win while playing the game a certain way.

Then again, he knew that long before the Stewart fight. ■

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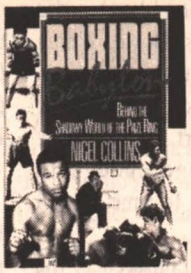

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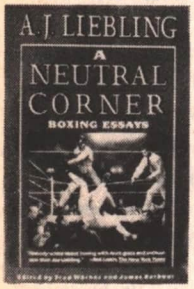

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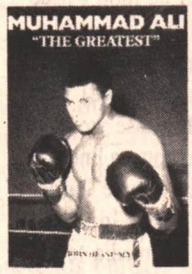

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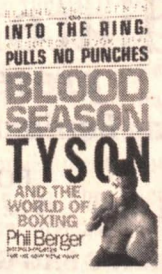

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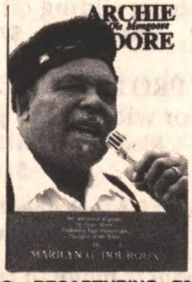

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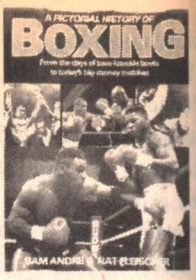

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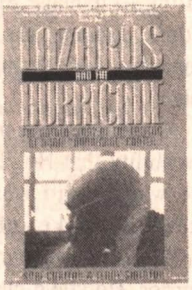

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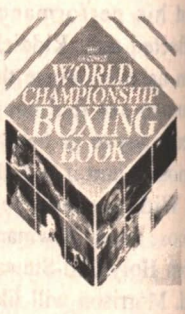

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Molina

(Continued from page 43)

Gunguluza. He's followed with defenses against Fernando Caicedo (KO 4), Pancho Segura (KO 8), and Medina (W 12).

The Medina fight illustrated why Molina has remained a championship-level fighter. Duva and Jose Martinez, who has trained Molina since John-John was 10, correctly figured the challenger, a tall and talented former featherweight champion, to move and box. Like most Puerto Rican fighters, Molina, 129½, is a natural counterpuncher. But for this fight he had been trained to initiate the action, and when Medina, 130, tried to keep his distance, the shorter champion charged in.

From round one to 12, Molina, 32-3 (23), struck in sudden bursts. He missed often, but landed enough hooks and rights to win almost every round. He never really hurt Medina, 47-5 (22), and the Mexican, who never stopped moving, failed to obtain enough leverage to hurt him. As a result, the only drama was produced by headbutts, of which there seemingly were dozens.

"Yes, I got butted a few times," said Molina, pointing to a wide gash on the top of his head, the result of an unintentional seventh-round meeting of the minds. What he *didn't* say was that he had been both victim and perpetrator.

As the rounds mounted and it became apparent that Molina was going to retain the title, a pocket of fans cheered his every punch. Otherwise, for all the enthusiasm displayed by the 9,000-plus in attendance, Molina-Medina might as well have been a six-round walkout bout.

After 12 fast-paced, albeit sloppy, rounds, the judges scored for the champion by unanimous scores of 117-111 (Frank Brunette), 116-112 (Nelson Vasquez), and 115-113 (Robert Cox). THE RING scored for Molina by 119-110. The referee was Robert Palmer.

"I knew it would be a difficult fight," said Molina, who isn't suited to talk trash, at least when there's a translator within earshot. "He is very experienced, and moves well. I am very happy with my performance."

The 28-year-old Molina makes 130 pounds only because he lives cleanly between fights. ("His only weakness," says Martinez, "is ladies. But never before a fight.") He's already realized his dream—to build a house for his mother—so what's left? A move to lightweight is likely, unless Finkel and Duva can arrange for one last fight at 130 pounds. One *particular* fight. It would be the biggest bout of Molina's life, and no, we're not talking about Azumah Nelson.

***

Their one and only meeting came in Virginia Beach a few weeks before the 1992 Olympics. But John-John Molina and Oscar De La Hoya sparred together, which means they got to know each other in a most intimate way.

"After four rounds," Molina said, "he didn't want to keep going. I'd love to fight him. I want to be more well-known outside of Puerto Rico."

If Molina had been an American gold medal winner, he likely would have been marketed much like De La Hoya. He's nowhere near as good-looking as Oscar, but he's pleasant and friendly, and it's difficult to uncover any negative quotes about him. Call him an All-Puerto Rican boy.

"He's one of the easiest people to work with in this business," said Roger Bloodworth," Molina's assistant trainer. "A sweetheart. The only time I ever saw him get mad was when Fernando Caicedo bit him on the shoulder. If Caicedo hadn't been wearing a mouthpiece, he would've taken a chunk of skin with him. It was the maddest I've seen John-John. He didn't want to be embarrassed in front of his people, so he beat the crap out of him."

"It takes a little more work to get him pumped up," said Lou Duva. "I really gotta get on his ass. But I get my point across. He knows from my voice if I'm mad."

And what message might Duva's voice send should De La Hoya challenge Molina, let's say early in 1994, or dethrone WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez and then meet Molina in a unification match? Remember, Duva and Finkel had De La Hoya all but signed to a contract when the golden boy inked a deal with co-managers Steve Nelson and Bob Mittleman.

"There comes a time when a fighter matures and needs to move up a class," said

(Continued on page 56)

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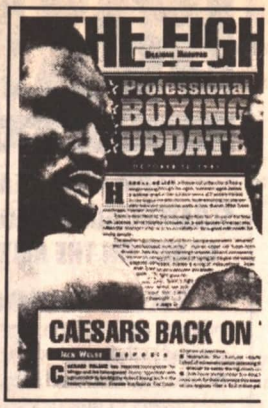

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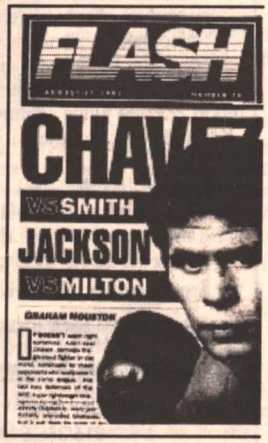

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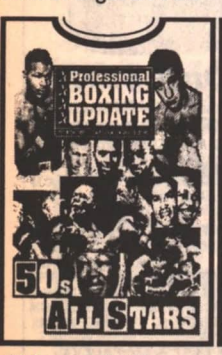

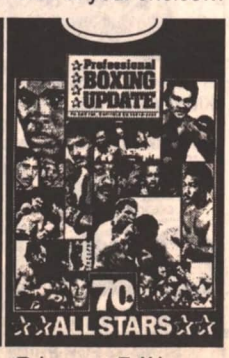

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Molina

(Continued from page 55)

Duva. "I think that time has come for John-John. I want to see him fight De La Hoya. Molina is available. We'll even fight him in Los Angeles."

De La Hoya was originally scheduled to fight for the title in October, but in July he pulled out of a fight with Narciso Valenzuela after aggravating a tendon injury to his left hand. His timetable now calls for a shot at one of the 130-pound champions early next year. If he's successful (he'll be favored to defeat either Hernandez or Molina; given the relationship of Bob Arum, who promotes De La Hoya, and Don King, who promotes WBC champion Nelson, a challenge of Nelson isn't likely), he'll face three options: a defense against Gabe Ruelas, a unification match against either Hernandez or Molina, or a jump to lightweight. Just how long will Molina have to wait for the fight he both wants and needs? After all, following his victory over Medina, he was threatening an immediate rise in weight.

"I have nothing bad to say about De La Hoya," said Molina. "I've seen him fight several times, and he's a good fighter. I would look forward to fighting him."

If John-John ever gets the chance, they're going to have a helluva time selling him as the bad-bad guy. ■

Tua

(Continued from page 16)

find any risk-takers among his neighbors, he or one of his six other sons would substitute.

Tua earned a bronze medal at the 1991 World Championships (he was stopped by Cuban superman Felix Savon) and won several national amateur titles in New Zealand. His amateur career culminated with a bronze medal in the 201-pound class at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. He scored two knockouts before losing a 12-7 decision to Nigeria's David Izonritei. Izonritei, whose nose was broken by Tua, lost to Savon in the gold medal match.

Tua became only the third New Zealander to earn an Olympic boxing medal. The first was welterweight Ted Morgan, who won a gold in 1928. Next came light heavyweight Kevin Barry, who took home a silver medal at the 1984 Games after a controversial disqualification victory over Evander Holyfield.

It was Barry and Holyfield who convinced Tua to sign with Duva and Finkel. During Holyfield's reign as heavyweight champion, Barry, who works for a New Zealand TV station, often came to the United States to do color commentary. On several occasions he brought Tua, and on one trip he introduced him to Holyfield, which gave him a spiritual lift.

"Evander being a Christian played a big part of my signing with [Duva and Finkel]," said Tua. "When we're in camp, everyone goes to church."

Although Holyfield is no longer trained by Duva and George Benton (Tua's handlers), the New Zealander is still happy with his decision. And he should be. It's an exciting time to be a young heavyweight. A fine group of fighters has emerged from the Class of 1992, including Americans Melvin Foster, John Bray, Jeremy Williams, Shannon Briggs, Larry Donald, and Donell Nicholson, Canada's Kirk Johnson, and Samoan-born Samson Pouha, who was raised in Utah. The Duvas have the experience and expertise to move Tua into the big-money showdowns that await the most talented of the young tigers.

"I'm aware of who is around," said Tua. "I'm keeping my eye on all of them."

It is Duva who keeps an eye on Tua. The fighter was a guest in Atlantic City at the Holyfield-Alex Stewart rematch, and was at Duva's side in New York City the night Madison Square Garden hosted its final boxing show.

"I met him on a train in Barcelona and I fell in love with him," Duva said of Tua. "I knew he was going to be a good pro."

How can he miss when he's tutored by Benton and surrounded every day at the gym by the likes of Pernell Whitaker and Michael Moorer? Tua has sparred with the ferocious Moorer on a regular basis and relishes the opportunity.

"I learn something new every day when I spar with Michael," he said. "I practice discipline and self-sacrifice. I'm taking it one step at a time."

Those steps have been giant-sized. Since turning pro in December, Tua has scored

eight knockouts in as many fights, including five in the first round. Although he can hurt opponents with either hand, it is his left hook that is particularly devastating.

"This kid can punch," said Duva. "He's frightening."

At 5'11", Tua is built similarly to Mike Tyson. Although he considers Holyfield his role model, he patterns himself in the ring after Tyson. With the help of a strength coach, Tua has gone from 195 pounds to a solid Tyson-like 216.

"One of the big things for David is to believe in himself," said Barry. "He's a naturally gifted puncher. And now he's learned to be confident with the extra body weight."

The more confident Tua gets, the more dangerous he is likely to become. While the competition among young heavyweights remains fierce, Duva insists his fighter will emerge as the best.

"David wants to learn," said Duva. "This kid wants to be a fighter. He picks things up very well. He can punch. He can do everything. Within two years he's going to be the hottest heavyweight in the world."

And certainly the hottest commodity in New Zealand. ■

Training

(Continued from page 21)

among others, former welterweight and middleweight champion Emile Griffith, would stress defense by placing a patch over his fighter's left eye before sparring sessions.

"The patch would make him turn his head a little to the left so he could see," Albert says, "and that would tuck his chin closer into his left shoulder."

You didn't see Emile Griffith on the floor too often, did you?

Remember the *Rocky* movie in which Mickey (Burgess Meredith) instructs a clumsy Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) to chase a chicken? Trainers have invited animals to training camp in real life, too. In an effort to improve Joe Louis' hand speed, Jack Blackburn used to open a jar of flies and challenge the "Brown Bomber" to catch them, one by one. (No one could ever figure out how Blackburn came up with a fresh supply of flies every day.) Bob Fitzsimmons was particularly creative; he perfected his parrying technique by blocking the paw thrust of a bear, and practiced slipping punches by dodging the kicks of a mule. "Ruby Bob" also regularly wrestled with a lion in his New Jersey training camp.

Back to Rocky Balboa, who trained for his first meeting with Apollo Creed by

(Continued on page 59)

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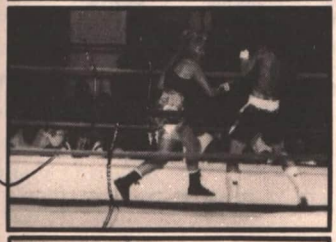

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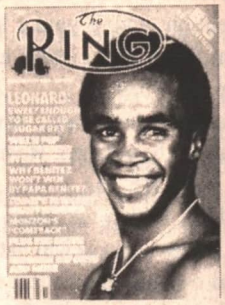

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Training
(Continued from page 57)

hammering raw sides of beef in a butcher's freezer. That memorable scene inspired another Philadelphian, bantamweight Johnny "Dancing Machine" Carter, to train for his title shot vs. Jeff Chandler by pounding on cased sausage. (Explanation: Bob Botto, Carter's manager, was a businessman known as "The Sausage King Of Philadelphia.") The attention-getting maneuver didn't do much for Carter's power; Chandler made mincemeat out of him, scoring a fifth-round kayo.

In the '20s, '30s, and '40s, boxers fought so often, they didn't have to adhere to a strict training program. Light heavyweight champion "Slapsie" Maxie Rosenbloom, who engaged in 299 recorded bouts, considered dancing in night clubs a serious and legitimate part of his training. Billy Conn bulked up by play-wrestling with his kid brother Jackie. And countless other inner-city fighters toughened themselves up by brawling in the streets. The most celebrated encounter involved rivals Harry Greb and Mickey Walker, who, in 1925, traded punches outside a New York City speakeasy only hours after fighting for the world middleweight title at the Polo Grounds. Anything to stay in shape.

Some fighters have used more subtle methods. Heavyweight contender Lou Nova included the practice of yoga in his training long before the western world discovered metaphysics. Publicists made sure to capitalize, labeling his right cross a "cosmic punch" before Nova's unsuccessful 1941 try at world champion Joe Louis. In the '70s, Lebanese-born light heavyweight Eddie Talhami went through ballet exercises while working out at Miami's Fifth Street Gym. And Ken Norton and, more recently, Alex Stewart, are among the fighters who have employed a hypnotist.

It would seem that fighters and trainers are stressing mental or psychological preparation more than ever before. Former light heavyweight champion Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, who helps psych up triple-crown champion Iran Barkley, tries to convince his fighters that they're invincible.

"I tell them before they get into the ring, 'You can't be beat,'" he says.

But as we learn again and again, in boxing, nothing is really new. It was more than 100 years ago that the aforementioned Fitzsimmons would walk off to a quiet, isolated part of his training camp, close his eyes, and visualize that he was drowning. Just as he pictured himself on the verge of death, he'd grab a plank on the surface and pull himself to safety. The mind game, Fitzsimmons said, greatly enhanced his punching power.

If Johnny Carter had only known about it, Bob Botto could have saved dozens of perfectly edible sausages.

Alan Shelton is a freelance writer based in Elizabeth, New Jersey. ■

Garden
(Continued from page 23)

the Garden, I'll do it. The Garden has a big slice of my heart."

And not just his.

"It's a very, very sad situation," said Steve Griffith, the Garden boxing department's head of publicity and marketing. "Everybody's been saying to me, 'There should be something. How come there's no fanfare, no hoopla?'"

How could there have been? As the doors were closing, the Garden couldn't very well have invited Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Emile Griffith, Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Wilfred Benitez, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, and on and on and said, "Look at all the great, great fighters we've had over the years. Hasn't it been wonderful?"

Bob Gutkowski, president of Madison Square Garden, tried to give the closing an air of inevitability, as if boxing were a rotary telephone whose time had passed.

"I'm disappointed that we couldn't make boxing a profitable venture at Madison Square Garden," he said between fights. "It was in the red, and it was a question of not being a profitable business. If you don't make a profit, you're not going to succeed.

"In reality, boxing didn't occur to a great extent in the Garden. If we still had the big fights in the big building or The Paramount, that would be a different story. The dynamics of boxing moved it away from New York, and when it became not profitable, we had to

(Continued on page 60)

THIS MONTH IN KO

The Fight Fans' Magazine

•Cover Story: **Terry Norris, Evander Holyfield,** and **Pernell Whitaker** are superstars at the crossroads. In three exclusive stories, find the answers to the questions you've been asking: Where are they headed? What challenges do they face? Are their best efforts behind them?

•Boxing is full of outspoken figures, but even by the fight game's standards, manager **Al Certo** has a lot to say. In the KO Interview, he'll shock you, inform you, amuse you, and never, ever bore you.

•Circle September 10 on your calendar. On that night, WBC welterweight champion **Pernell Whitaker** will defend the title against **Julio Cesar Chavez** in the biggest bout of 1993. Who will win the fight—and the title of boxing's best fighter?

•Among the world's hottest fighters is relentless junior welterweight **Zack Padilla**. In a revealing profile, learn about the Californian's five-year layoff, and the woman who talked him into returning to the ring.

•KO presents the eighth installment of "The Tyson Chronicles." This month: **"Iron Mike"** unifies two-thirds of the heavyweight title by humbling **Bonecrusher Smith**.

•The KO Pinup features a full-color centerfold of IBF junior lightweight champion **John-John Molina**.

All This And More In The November 1993 Issue Of KO Magazine

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Garden

(Continued from page 59)

While it's true the casinos of Atlantic City and Las Vegas are proven money-making sites for boxing, Gutkowski didn't mention the Garden's recent triumphs. The Riddick Bowe-Michael Dokes heavyweight title fight, pathetic from the moment it was signed, nevertheless almost packed the main arena. Buddy McGirt's WBC welterweight title defense against Genaro Leon had The Paramount rocking, as did his main arena showdown with Pernell Whitaker.

There's still a market for exciting boxing in New York City, and you really don't have to look any further than the way the crowd danced in their seats for Brooklyn's Green.

"I have Yankee season tickets and it doesn't compare," said Al Vanacoro of Chappaqua, New York, a front-row regular at Forum/Paramount shows for the last six years. "You know what the difference between baseball and boxing is? You get a five-time champion like Emile Griffith here and he's approachable. Where else are you going to get that?"

From main events to prelims, Vanacoro said he never liked to miss a round: "Right before fight time, my heart's beating. Pounding."

Not all the fans were so saddened. Mark Moskin of Manhattan leaned over the railing after the last fight and yelled at no one in particular.

"I came down here on the final night and not one serious fight," he said. "Not one decision. After all the years of great boxing tradition here, this is how they choose to go out? The people responsible for this should be ashamed."

"It means so much to the fans," said Goodman, who ran the boxing department for the last eight years. "It's sad for the kids in New York. They have that dream to fight here in the Garden. I had that same dream growing up on these streets, in Brooklyn."

Upstairs in the dressing rooms, Dave Wolf, who's managed some pretty good fighters, including Ray Mancini, was feeling mixed emotions. He's sky-high on Bradley, a three-time New York Golden Gloves champion who looked great against Huffaker. But Bradley won those amateur titles in the Garden, and manager and fighter had hoped to make it their home base.

"I really believe this is a mistake," Wolf said, shaking his head, "and there's nothing we can do about it."

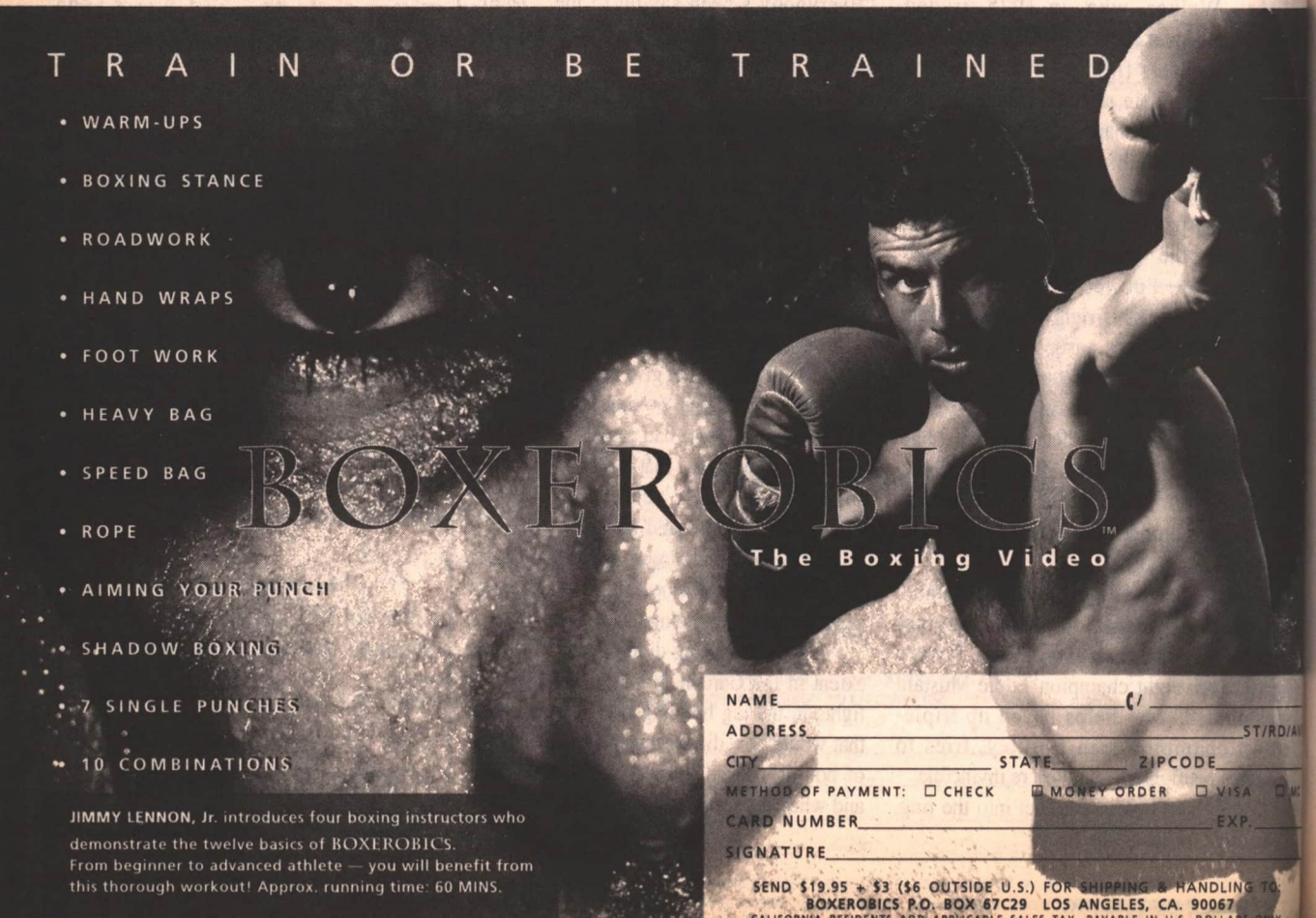
The first sports event held at the present Madison Square Garden came on March 4, 1968, Joe Frazier-Buster Mathis for New York's version of the world heavyweight title. Even with the ongoing WBA tournament to determine a successor to Muhammad Ali, who was battling the U.S. government over religious freedom, Garden boxing was so powerful that many agreed to recognize the Frazier-Mathis winner as the true champ.

The fight drew 18,096, with Frazier kayoing Mathis in the 11th round. A month later, Jimmy Ellis beat Jerry Quarry for the vacant WBA title, and when it was time for a unification, who do you think promoted the fight? The Garden.

When Ali came back, his second return bout, against Oscar Bonavena, was at the Garden. Then came the fight of fights, Frazier-Ali on March 8, 1971. It was arguably the greatest sporting event of all-time.

That was more than 22 years ago, and boxing in New York the past few years has seen nothing like it. But memories die hard, and now so has boxing at the Garden. ■

John Scheinman is a writer and editor living in Washington, D.C.



Chavez

(Continued from page 31)

only this time he has to do it against a man equipped to negate his battle plan. Whitaker is slick enough to wiggle free from a python's grasp, and Chavez will need all the perseverance he can muster.

A steady diet of body shots is the best formula for taking the bounce out of any boxer's legs, and you can bet the mortgage money Chavez will attempt to follow this time-honored recipe. Whitaker knows this, too, and will be doing everything in his power to avoid the kind of strength-sapping hooks to the midsection that have crippled so many of Chavez' victims.

While bodypunches are the bedrock of Chavez' offense, they're definitely not his only weapons. His right cross is dangerous, especially when thrown as a lead against southpaws, and his uppercuts have wrecked almost as many faces as car windshields. To make Whitaker's task even more unenviable, Chavez has a well-deserved reputation for punching just as hard in the last round as he does in the first.

Chavez usually combines all aspects of his arsenal, introducing each element during a grinding-down process. He can be expected to follow his conventional pattern against Whitaker, but in order to be successful he must step up his intensity a notch or two, especially in the early rounds, to compensate for Whitaker's guile and evasiveness.

WHO WILL WIN AND WHY

The tension will be palatable, but both champions have been through numerous big fights and are accustomed to hype and hoopla. It's unlikely an attack of the nerves will afflict either.

Expect the bout to unfold much like Chavez' fight with Camacho. Chavez will try to establish his authority early, while Whitaker will scamper around the ring and score from a distance. If Chavez can work his left hook to the body early, he'll stick with it. If he doesn't, he'll stick with it anyway. It is this placid, unruffled persistence that is his greatest strength. He knows what he has to do, believes deeply in his ability to do it, and keeps at it until the job is done.

In figuring Whitaker, Camacho is a useful yardstick. Both are stylish boxers, fleet of foot, and extremely evasive. The big difference may turn out to be Whitaker's attitude. While he'll undoubtedly fight a strategic battle, he is cocky, and used to dishing out punishment without getting hit in return.

"Against Chavez, I don't anticipate a fight where I'll have to dig deep," he has said.

This could lure him into lingering within Chavez' punching range longer than is prudent, especially after landing good shots of his own. At such times, he'll be in great peril.

The turning point will come during an exchange:

At some point during the first half of the match, Whitaker pops in a few crisp blows, is impressed by his handiwork, and tries again. But before he can fire, Chavez counters with a numbing right. Whitaker is hurt, tries to escape, but is nailed with another right. He grabs Chavez in a desperate attempt to clear his head. By the time the referee finally pries him loose, the immediate danger has passed. But Whitaker's priority has changed from winning to surviving.

After Whitaker gets drilled, the rest of the bout is anticlimactic. Backpedaling faster than a cornerback covering Jerry Rice, Whitaker manages to avoid a knockout loss, but is never again in the fight. Chavez stoically plugs after him, dishing out steady but unspectacular punishment. He manages to rock Whitaker again late, but can't pin him down long enough to apply the coup de grace.

By the time the final bell rings, the capacity crowd has been booing for several rounds and there is a contemptuous sneer on Chavez' face. The last spark of excitement comes when one of the judges scores the one-sided bout even. The other totals favor Chavez by wide margins, giving him a majority decision victory.

Not the most satisfying outcome to be sure, especially with expectations running so high. But to those with an affinity for the sluggers, there is a measure of satisfaction anytime Br'er Rabbit gets his come-uppance. ■

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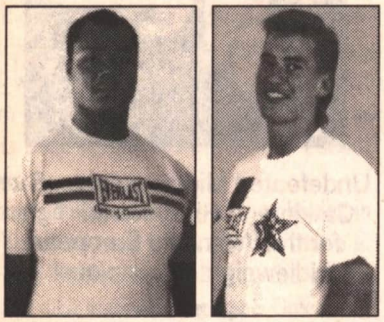

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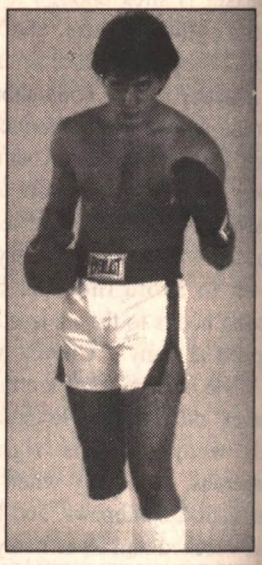

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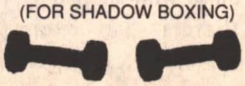

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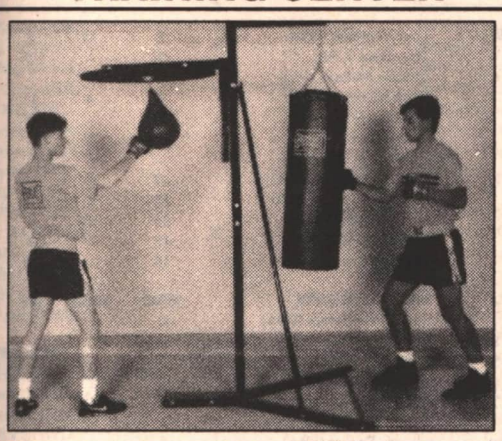

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HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	2	3
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	4	4
Oliver McCall (USA)	3	3	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	4	1	1
Alex Stewart (JAM)	5	–	12
Frank Bruno (GB)	6	5	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	7	10	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	8	–	–
Alex Garcia (USA)	9	9	–
Joe Hipp (USA)	10	–	–
Alex Miroshinichenko (CIS)	19	6	–
Mike Dixon (USA)	23	7	–
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	8	8
Frank Bruno (USA)	–	–	5
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	6
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	24	12	9
Greg Page (USA)	11	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Akim Tafer (FRA)	1	3	6
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	3	5	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	4	4	4
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	5	2	5
Robert Daniels (USA)	6	7	11
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	7	11	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	8	6	8
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	9	–	–
Richard Mason (USA)	10	–	10
James Warring (USA)	14	8	–
Kenny Keene (USA)	13	9	–
Frans Botha (SA)	–	10	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	3
Jade Scott (USA)	15	–	7
Glen McCrory (GB)	16	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Randall Yonker (USA)	1	7	–
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	3
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	–	9
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	4	–	1
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	–	–
David Vedder (USA)	6	–	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	7	10	2
Charles Williams (USA)	8	11	4
Eric Nicoletta (USA)	9	–	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	10	12	7
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	12	3	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	14	4	10
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	–	5	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	–	6	11
Crawford Ashley (GB)	17	8	–
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	25	9	–
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	–	5
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Darjusz Michalczawski (POL)	–	–	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	7	6
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	3	5	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	4	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	5	2	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	6	12	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	7	–	5
Thulane Malinga (SA)	8	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	9	4	11
Ray Close (GB)	10	–	9
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	3	–
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	6	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	27	8	–
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	12	9	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	25	10	8
Steve Little (USA)	18	–	4
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	16	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	2	1
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	1	5
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	2
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	4	–	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	5	4	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	6	10	–
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	7	9	–
Frank Grant (GB)	8	–	6
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	9	–	11
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	10	7	3
Joe Gatti (USA)	11	3	7
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	5	10
Mike McCallum (JAM)	–	6	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	21	8	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	–	4
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	14	–	8
Manuel Medina (SPA)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	5	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	2	1	6
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	4	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	4	6	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	5	8	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	6	9	1
Lupe Aquino (USA)	7	–	11
Andy Till (GB)	8	–	8
Stephen Martinez (USA)	9	–	–
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	10	3	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	12	2	–
Curtis Summit (USA)	–	7	4
Ronald Wright (USA)	17	10	12
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	14	–	3
Julio C. Green (USA)	–	–	7
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	9
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	11	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	2	1	7
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	3	2	2
James McGirt (USA)	4	9	6
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	5	3	–
Larry Barnes (USA)	6	–	5
Gary Jacobs (GB)	7	4	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	5	10
Pat Barrett (GB)	9	–	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	10	–	8
Kevin Pompey (USA)	11	6	3
Luis Garcia (VEN)	–	7	1
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	8	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	10	–
Stephan Johnson (USA)	–	–	4
Maurice Blocker (USA)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Charles Murray (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	2	2
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	2	1	–
Terrence Alli (USA)	3	6	–
David Kamau (USA)	4	–	–
Kostya Tszyu (CIS)	5	–	4
Andy Holligan (GB)	6	8	3
Hector Lopez (MEX)	7	–	–
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	8	–	6
Vincent Phillips (USA)	9	–	–
Greg Haugen (USA)	10	–	–
Loreto Garza (USA)	19	3	–
Morris East (PHIL)	–	4	11
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	5	–
Eder Gonzalez (COL)	–	7	–
Jose Barroza (VEN)	–	9	–
Ian Bergman (SA)	20	10	–
Rafael Pineda (COL)	–	–	1
Rodney Moore (USA)	22	–	5
Juan LaPorte (PR)	–	–	7
Tracy Spann (USA)	–	–	8
Angel Hernandez (PR)	11	–	9
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Ringaan Thobela (SA)	–	C	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	–	C
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	5	1
Leavander Johnson (USA)	2	–	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	3	8
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	4	6	3
Nazarov Olzubek (CIS)	5	1	–
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	6	–	–
Darryll Tyson (USA)	7	12	–
Chad Broussard (USA)	8	10	–
Miguel Julio (COL)	9	8	2
David Sample (USA)	10	–	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	11	2	10
Tony Lopez (USA)	–	4	–
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	7	–
Jorge Paez (MEX)	–	9	6
Eduardo Molina (COL)	23	–	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	7
Carl Griffith (USA)	12	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	1	3	5
Calvin Grove (USA)	2	–	4
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	3	4	9
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	4	10	–
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	5	–	6
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	6	–	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	7	8	–
Ed Hopson (USA)	8	–	12
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	5	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	10	9	7
Harold Warren (USA)	–	1	–
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	27	2	–
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	20	6	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	–	7	–
Bernard Taylor (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (SPA)	–	–	2
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	8
John Brown (USA)	16	12	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gregorio Vargas (MEX)	C	–	–
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	1
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	–	12
James Leija (USA)	3	6	8
Jose Vida Ramos (DR)	4	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	5	–	7
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	6	7	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	3	5
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	8	4	–
Colin McMillan (GB)	9	–	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	10	–	4
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	2	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	5	2
Chris Saguid (PHI)	–	8	–
Tae Sik Chun (KOR)	–	9	–
Carlos Uribe (CHILE)	–	10	–
Baby Rojas (COL)	–	–	3
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	6
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	9
Tony Green (USA)	14	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	7	1
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	–	3
Cesar Soto (MEX)	4	–	4
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	5	1	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	6	9	2
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	7	4	–
Freddy Cruz (DR)	8	–	–
Jose Garcia (DR)	9	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	10	–	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	27	2	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	15	3	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	11	5	11
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	24	6	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	8	–
Rudy Zavala (USA)	–	10	5
Nurhuda (INDO)	28	–	6
Cesar Polanco (DR)	18	–	7
Maui Diaz (USA)	12	–	8
Jose Rincones (VEN)	–	–	9
Richard Duran (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	C	–	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	4	2	–
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	5	4	–
Eddie Cook (USA)	6	3	5
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	7	5	–
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	8	–	–
Jesus Sarabia (USA)	9	9	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	10	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	7	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	28	8	8
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	10	4
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Harold Mestre (COL)	21	11	3
Clarence Adams (USA)	26	–	6
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	7
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	–	–	9
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	1	1	–
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	2	–	9
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	3	–	–
Greg Richardson (USA)	4	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	6	–	–
Bernardo Mendoza (CHILE)	7	–	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	8	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	9	10	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	4	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	15	2	–
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	13	3	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	5	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	6	–
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	26	7	–
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	12	8	–
Ivan Morales (PR)	–	9	–
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	1
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	–	–	2
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	12	3
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	4
Robert Quiroga (USA)	19	–	5
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	6
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	7
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	–	–	8
John Johnson (USA)	27	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	C	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	–	1
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	2	5	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	3	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	4	–	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	–	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	–	4
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	7	–	–
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	8	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	9	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	10	–	11
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	14	1	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	2	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	3	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	–	6	–
Jae Kwon Chang (KOR)	26	7	–
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	12	8	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	9	2
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	10	–
Scotty Olson (USA)	11	–	3
Kyung Yon Lee (KOR)	–	–	5
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	–	–	6
Saul Guaza (COL)	–	–	7
Robbie Regan (GB)	15	12	8
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	30	–	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Michael Carbajal (USA)	C	–	C
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	–	C	–
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	1	8	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	4	11	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	5	12	11
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	6	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	7	3	12
Domingo Sosa (DR)	8	9	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	–	–
Juan Torres (PAN)	10	1	1
Leo Gamez (VEN)	18	2	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	13	5	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	–	7	–
Yung Jin Kim (KOR)	22	10	–
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	–	–	2
Eric Griffin (USA)	–	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	4
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	7
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	8
Pronchai Sithpraporom (THAI)	–	–	9
Kyun Kim (KOR)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	1	–	–
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	2	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	3	3	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	4	5	–
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	5	4	–
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	6	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	7	1	–
Aswin Sithlukmuang (THAI)	8	–	–
Toto Pol Polgsawang (THAI)	9	–	–
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	2	9
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	–	6	5
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	7	4
Jin Ho Kim (JAP)	–	8	–
Miguel A. Granado (MEX)	–	9	–
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	25	10	7
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	1
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	12	12	2
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	13	–	3
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	6
Ekawit Singhchatchawal (THAI)	–	–	8
Aswin Sasiprakyim (THAI)	–	–	10

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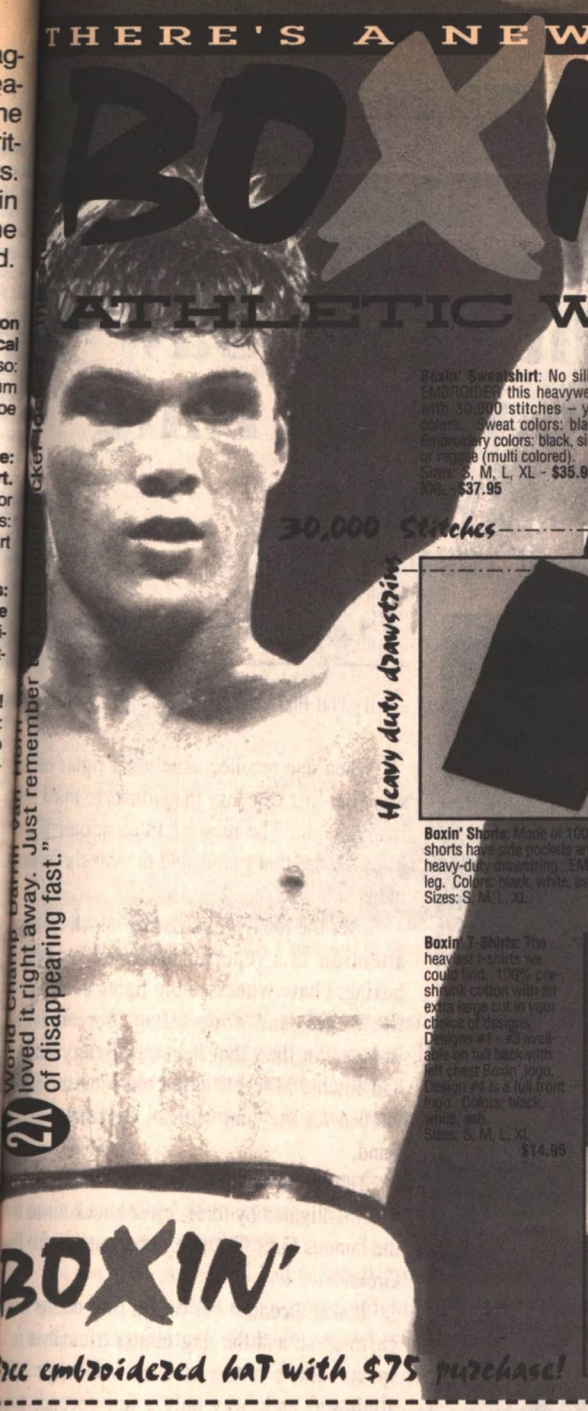

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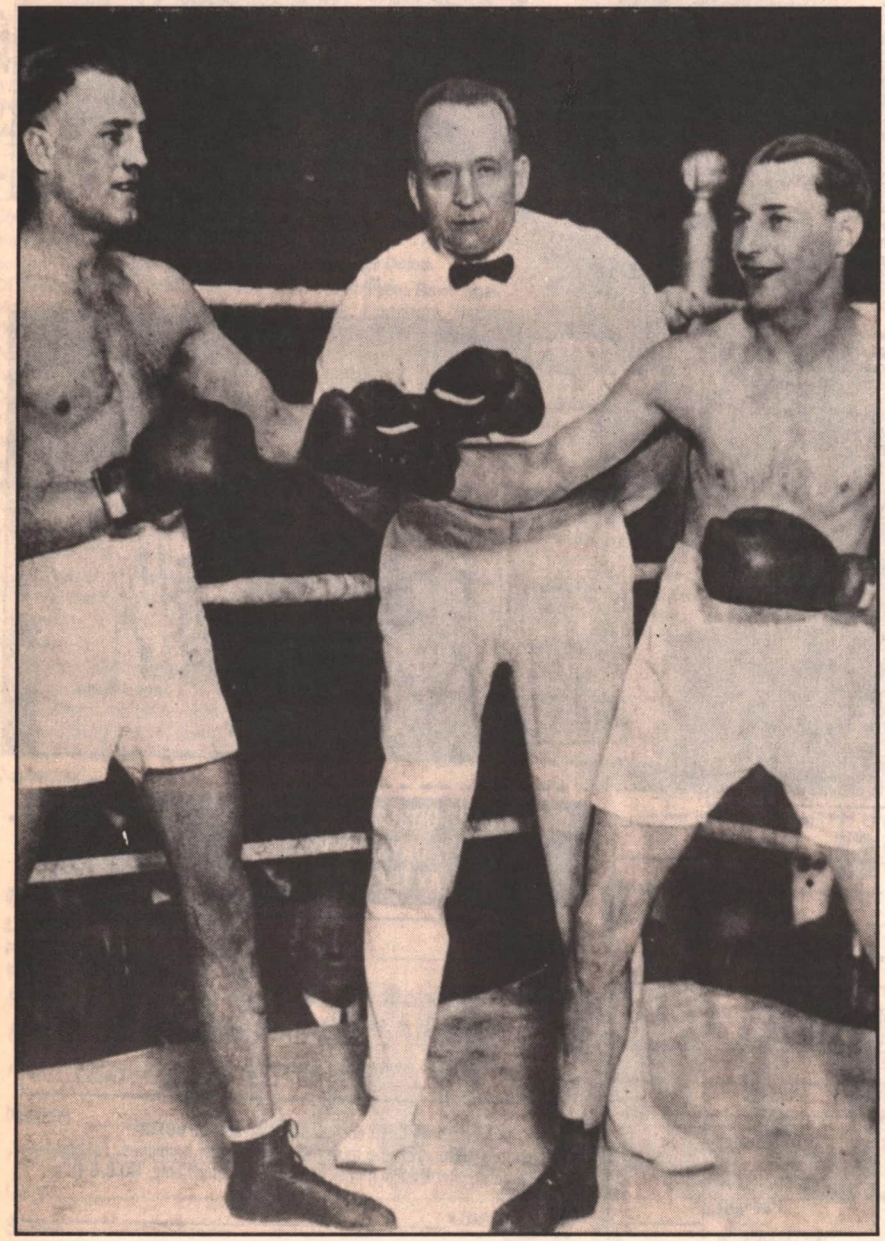
RING CLASSIC

"The Greatest Fight I Ever Saw" Spectacular Memories Of Ring Staffers Revived

From THE RING, April 1971



Benny Leonard (right) squares off with challenger Ritchie Mitchell before their January 1921 lightweight title fight in the old Madison Square Garden. Leonard won in six rounds.

Leonard Stops Mitchell

By Nat Fleischer, Editor

When one recollects the great fights one ha seen, the first category that comes to mind is th heavyweight. The reason? International interes leans toward that group, and there is the factor o the kayo.

Over the many years during which my major attention as a reporter has been focused on boxing, I have witnessed big fights in all parts of the world, and none left a more indelible impression than that between Benny Leonard and Ritchie Mitchell in the old Madison Square Garden for the Ann Morgan Devastated France Fund.

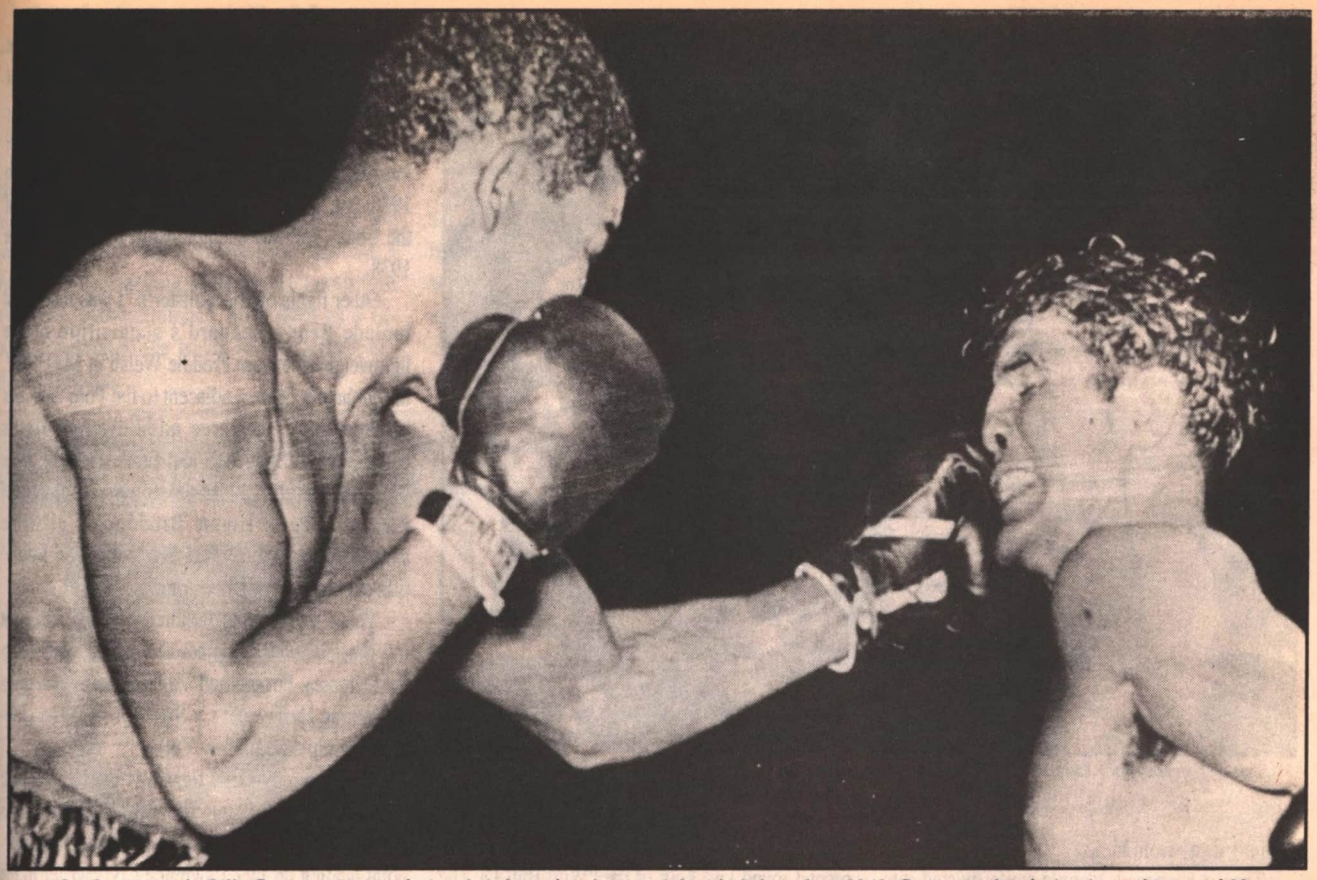
The encounter lasted into the sixth round and was highlighted by three fewer knockdowns than the famous Firpo-Dempsey encounter at the Polo Grounds.

It was a contest between a ring master and a glove artist, and the ring master triumphed in as spectacular a battle as ever was waged. The affair was underway only a few seconds when Leonard whipped a right cross to Mitchell's cheek and down he went.

He was up in a groggy condition at nine, and was quickly dropped again. He got to his feet and was reeling when the bell came to his rescue. He went to his corner with the gore trickling from an ugly gash over the right eye.

Mitchell was floored again for an eight count. Leonard, eager for a kayo, lost his coo and accuracy.

Benny was now wide-open for a desperation punch. It caught him over the heart, and the champ stiffened in his tracks. Like a flash, h challenger crossed a right to the jaw, an Leonard pitched to the floor.



Joe Louis caught Billy Conn just in time during their legendary heavyweight title fight in June 1941. Conn was ahead when kayoed in round 13.

He was hurt. Not until the referee reached three did Leonard try to get to his knees. The spectators were stunned. At the chant of six, Benny got on his knees, and he came up before the full count.

Mitchell, surprised, stood dumbfounded, while Leonard quickly recovered. From here on, it was the great Leonard again.

In the sixth round, he had Mitchell primed for the kill, and one of the greatest fights of modern ring history came to an end with a knockout.

Conn Almost Makes It

By Nat Loubet, Managing Editor

The time was June 18, 1941, and the place was the Polo Grounds. It was the greatest fight I have ever seen—the first meeting between Joe Louis, heavyweight champion of the world, and Billy Conn.

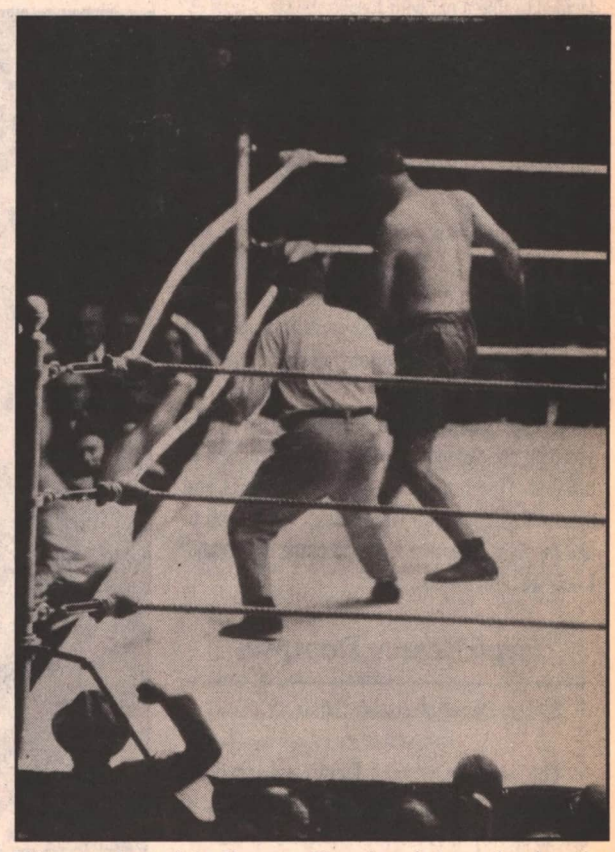
At the time I was a member of the armed forces alerted for overseas duty, and this June night was one of three to be spent in New York before shipment.

Everything about New York that warm night had special significance, and every breath was cherished. Of all the harbored warm moments, none more so than the 13 rounds I witnessed as presented by Pittsburgh Billy, who, when the 12th round was over, had outboxed the "Brown Bomber" and was on his way to the heavyweight title.

Conn had given up his light heavyweight crown the previous year, and if he won the next three rounds would be the first light heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight title.

The bell rang for round 13 and gadfly Billy dashed out of his corner. His jarring left jab once more found the almost-defenseless jaw of the heavyweight champion.

Cocky, smiling, an Irish kid who felt that he had it made, Conn was the fresher and glided in and out. Louis sensed that his crown was



This rare photo of the Dempsey-Firpo brawl shows the champion headed out of the ring and into the press section.

Jack Dempsey and Luis Firpo pose before their classic shootout for the heavyweight title.

slipping away from him.

Then it happened. Conn's smile twisted into a savage smirk. He came down off his toes and decided to slug it out with Joe.

Tired and a beaten man, Louis took advantage of this minute in destiny. Two left uppercuts, a series of left jabs, and Conn was hurt.

He had misjudged the heart of a fighting champion. Conn's confidence, courage, and ego were his undoing.

His desire to knock out Joe Louis was his big mistake, and he paid the price. He walked into a right and was on rubbery feet. A desperation right thrown by Louis landed flush on Billy's jaw, and he went into a slow motion fall. He spun and sagged to the canvas.

Referee Eddie Joseph tolled away. With the 10-count one second away, Billy pulled himself to his feet. One look at Conn's glazed eyes and defenseless condition was enough for Joseph to halt the fight. The time was 2:58 of the 13th round. Louis was still the champion!

Firpo Scares Dempsey

By Dan Daniel, Associate Editor

The writer saw Jack Dempsey carve the heavyweight championship out of Jess Willard at Toledo on July 4, 1919.

He saw Dempsey belted out of the Polo Grounds ring in New York by Angel Luis Firpo, and Jack's strident rally, which resulted in the second-round knockout of the "Wild Bull Of The Pampas."

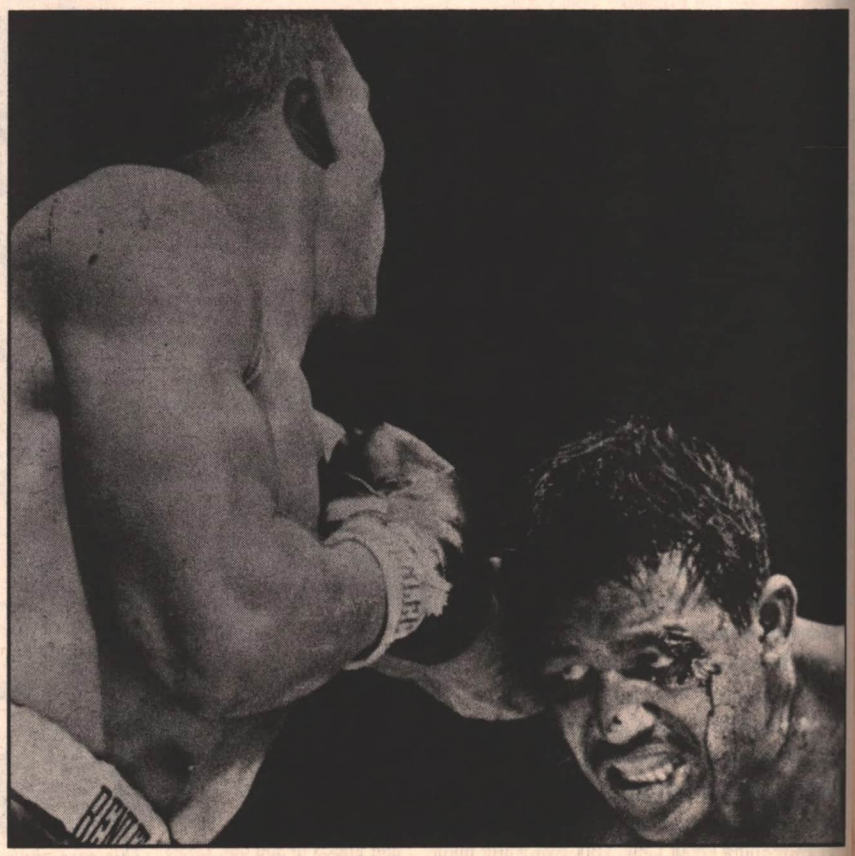
He was at the rain-soaked ringside the night Gene Tunney won the title from Dempsey at Philadelphia in September 1926.

He witnessed the battle in which Max Schmeling stopped title-bound Joe Louis in 12 rounds in 1936, and Joe's revenge with a one-round kayo of the Uhlan, with the championship at stake, in June 1938.

Other fights on this pollster's "I was there" list include Benny Leonard's acquisition of the lightweight title from Freddie Welsh in May 1917, in Manhattan Casino, adjacent to the Polo Grounds in New York; the three middleweight fights between Nino Benvenuti and Emile Griffith; Max Baer's 11-round, 11 knockdowns stoppage of Primo Carnera; Jimmy Braddock's all-time surprise victory over Max Baer; and Joe Louis' title-saving kayo of Billy Conn.

These and several hundred other fights. But my most indelible impressions were acquired in the Dempsey-Firpo brawl. And the many meetings of Battling Hurley and Cy Smith back in the club-membership days in New York.

The Dempsey-Firpo fight was brief enough. It lasted scarcely five minutes. But it had impacts galore, the most memorable being Jack's four-point landing on Jack Lawrence's typewriter in the first round.



In September 1951, Sugar Ray Robinson regained the world middleweight title by surviving a horrible cut and knocking out Randy Turpin, who had previously outpointed him.

Louis Stunned By Max

By George Girsch, Assistant Managing Editor

The greatest fight I ever saw was the first fight I ever saw. It was on June 19, 1936. My father took me to Yankee Stadium to see Joe Louis polish off Max Schmeling. Instead, I witnessed the startling sight of the heretofore invincible "Brown Bomber" humiliated by a 12-round knockout at the hands of the German ex-world champion.

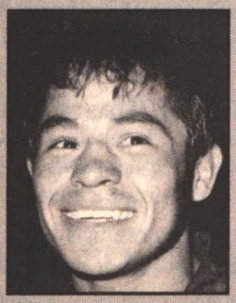
We sat in reserved seats in the upper deck, overlooking the playing field where all my heroes of the day—Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Red Ruffing, and Lefty Gomez—plied their trade. I marveled at the setup of the ring, how it was placed near the pitcher's mound and second base, with the ringside seats on all four sides. How I envied the people who held those tickets and could trod on the hallowed grass where Ruth and Cobb and Speaker played.

I looked around in wonderment of how 88,000 people, still the record for an event at the Stadium, were able to be squeezed in the previous September to watch Louis stop Max Baer in four rounds.

For the first three rounds it seemed to be a matter of time before Louis would catch up to Schmeling. Obviously, Louis was just biding his time. After all, he was an 8-1 favorite, wasn't he?

But in the fourth round, Max connected with a tremendous right to Louis' jaw. Joe was never the same after that. A Schmeling right, which landed after the bell, was called the turning point

THE RING RATINGS, *April 1971*



Chucho Castillo

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA

1. **Cassius Clay**, Louisville, KY
2. **George Foreman**, Hayward, CA
3. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
4. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
6. **Henry Cooper**, England
7. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
8. **Jose Ibar Urtain**, Spain
9. **Jose Luis Garcia**, Venezuela
10. **Floyd Patterson**, New York, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.

1. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
2. **Vicente Rondon**, Venezuela
3. **Gomeo Brennan**, Bahamas
4. **Hal Carroll**, Syracuse, NY
5. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
6. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
7. **Piero Del Papa**, Italy
8. **Larry Buck**, Seattle, WA
9. **Ron Marsh**, Shawnee, KS
10. **Mike Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon, Argentina

1. **Nino Benvenuti**, Italy
2. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
3. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
4. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
5. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH
6. **Pierre Fourie**, South Africa
7. **Carmelo Bossi**, Italy
8. **Nessim Cohen**, France
9. **Fraser Scott**, Seattle, WA
10. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Backus, Syracuse, NY

1. **Jose Napoles**, Mexico
2. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
3. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
4. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Robert Gallois**, France
6. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
7. **Donato Paduano**, Canada
8. **Ralph Charles**, England
9. **Marcel Cerdan**, France
10. **Roger Menetrey**, France

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Locche, Argentina

1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
3. **Bunny Grant**, Jamaica
4. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
5. **Enrique Jana**, Argentina
6. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA
7. **Lion Furuyama**, Japan
8. **Ely Yares**, Philippines
9. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
10. **Gil King**, Akron, OH

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ken Buchanan, Scotland

1. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
2. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
3. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
4. **Mando Ramos**, Long Beach, CA
5. **Al Ford**, Canada
6. **Miguel Velasquez**, Spain
7. **Sugar Ramos**, Mexico
8. **Shinichi Kadota**, Japan
9. **Chango Carmona**, Mexico
10. **Antonio Cervantes**, Colombia

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan

1. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Yoshiaki Numata**, Japan
3. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
4. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
5. **Frank Otero**, Miami Beach, FL
6. **Sammy Goss**, Trenton, NJ
7. **Frankie Crawford**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Armando Mendoza**, Venezuela
9. **Jose Acosta**, Venezuela
10. **Hiroshi Shoji**, Japan

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Kuniaki Shibata, Japan

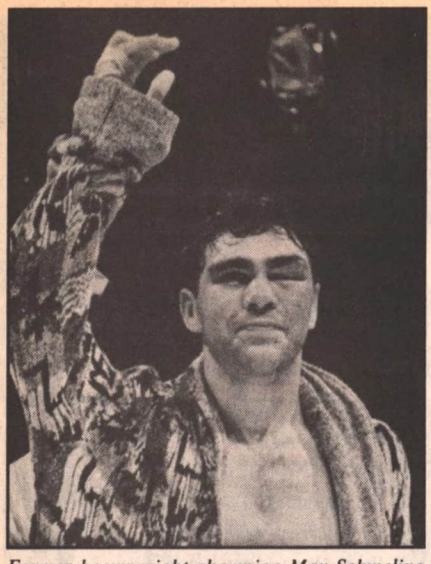
1. **Shojo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
3. **Jose Legra**, Spain
4. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
5. **Raul Cruz**, Mexico
6. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
7. **Jimmy Revie**, England
8. **Ernesto Marcel**, Panama
9. **Ricardo Arredondo**, Mexico
10. **Jose Luis Pimental**, San Antonio, TX

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Chucho Castillo, Mexico

1. **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico
2. **Jesus Pimentel**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Franco Zurlo**, Italy
4. **Ramon Bravo**, Venezuela
5. **Rafael Herrera**, Mexico
6. **Rodolfo Martinez**, Mexico
7. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
8. **Alan Rudkin**, England
9. **Ushiwakamaru Harada**, Japan
10. **Enrique Pinder**, Panama

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Erbito Salavarria, Philippines

1. **Masao Ohba**, Japan
2. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand
3. **Efren Torres**, Mexico
4. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
5. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
6. **Lorenzo Gutierrez**, Mexico
7. **Berkrerk Chartvanchai**, Thailand
8. **Orlando Amores**, Panama
9. **Ricardo Delgado**, Mexico
10. **Cesar Desiga**, Mexico



Former heavyweight champion Max Schmeling shocked the world when he kayoed the previously unbeaten Joe Louis in June 1936.

by many. Louis seemed to be fighting strictly on instinct after that.

The methodical German, ever wary, would not take any chances, pecking away at Louis until the 12th round, when he administered the coup de grace.

My father and I were stunned, as was mostly everybody else. But not so stunned that we couldn't wend our way down to the ringside seats, most of which had been vacated after the main event. We saw the semifinal in fine style, as Al Gainer chopped Tony Galento's face into mincemeat, a fitting climax to the greatest fight I ever saw.

Buchanan Thrills New York

By John Ort, Assistant Editor

Some of the greatest fights in the annals of the ring are mere entries, lifeless in the record books, if they found their way there at all. The reason? They were just wars, without title significance.

Usually a fight terminating in a knockout will fasten itself firmly in the recollection of a reporter.

But, after all, the name of the game is boxing, so I will bypass the battles I have seen with the 10-count as the winning factor, and devote my praise to Ken Buchanan, lightweight champion of the world, for his remarkable exhibition of boxing in his first appearance in the United States, against Donato Paduano.

They went 10 rounds in the semifinal to the bout in which Cassius Clay stopped Oscar Bonavena in the 15th round before a packed house in Madison Square Garden, as 1970 waned.

Buchanan's demonstration was a thing of beauty. It showed New York fans what boxing could achieve as a fine art. The smallish Scot was a will o' the wisp. He danced into an around Paduano, who confessed his inability t cope with a technique seldom seen in any ring

I cannot compare with old-timers like N Fleischer in the matter of going back into th mystic annals of the sour science. But I dou if even he ever saw another boxer make s dazzling a showing.

Perhaps Jem Driscoll and Abe Attell wer as quick, as adroit and as hard to hit as Ke was that night. Let us not forget that Paduan was no stiff. Welter champ of Canada, Donat bore a high reputation himself as a cleve boxer. But he almost was shut out by the ma who had taken the lightweight title from Ismae Laguna, another master of hit and get away.

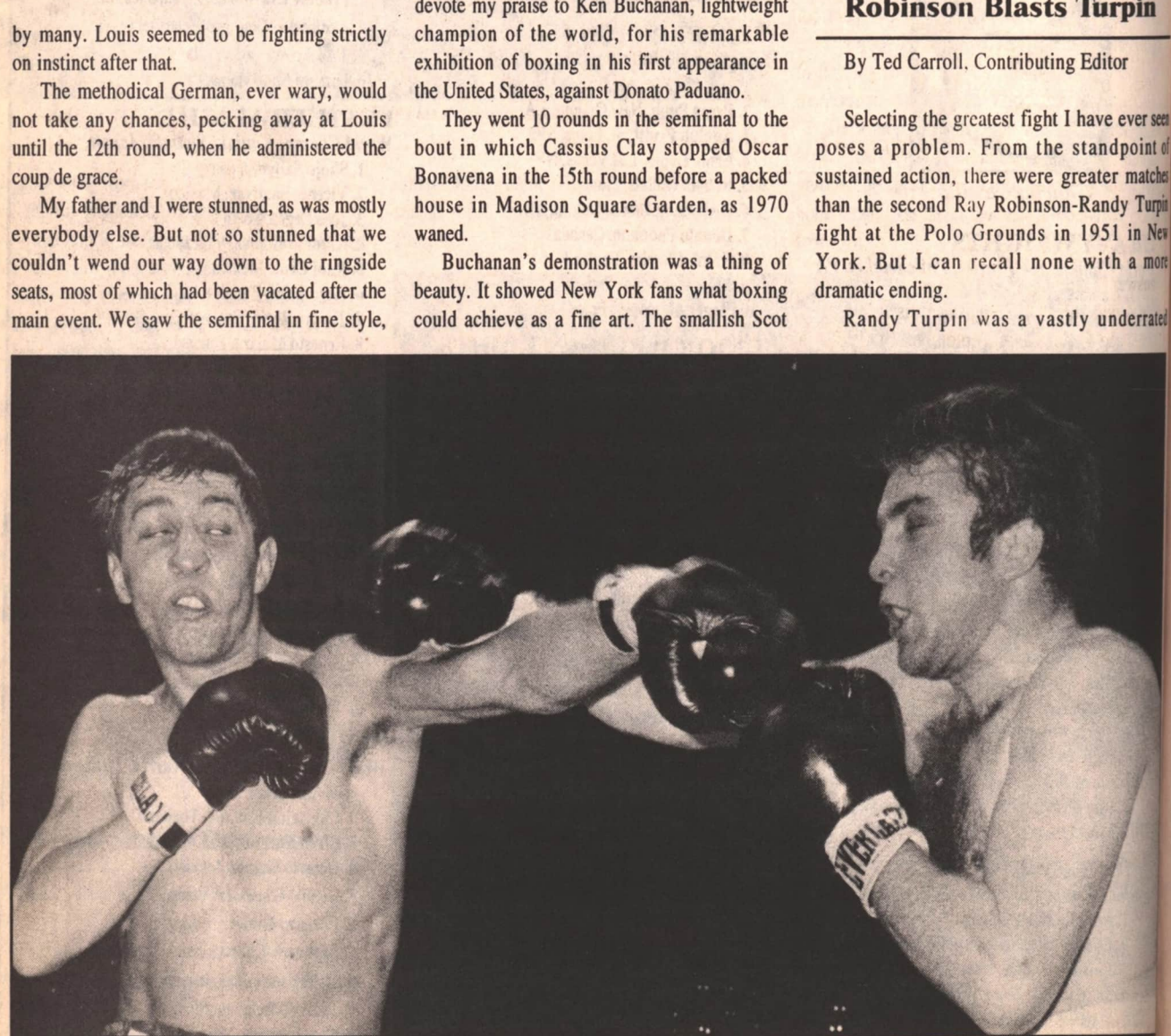
I sat there entranced by the possibilities o scientific boxing as the Manly Art.

Robinson Blasts Turpin

By Ted Carroll, Contributing Editor

Selecting the greatest fight I have ever seen poses a problem. From the standpoint of sustained action, there were greater matches than the second Ray Robinson-Randy Turpin fight at the Polo Grounds in 1951 in New York. But I can recall none with a more dramatic ending.

Randy Turpin was a vastly underrated



Ken Buchanan's first appearance in the United States was a brilliant December 1970 points win over Donato Paduano at Madison Square Garden.

fighter. His defeat of Sugar Ray several months earlier in London had climaxed an impressive string of victories.

Up to the moment of its shattering finish, the return match between Ray and the Briton had been waged on even terms. As the fight progressed it appeared that Robinson's chances of scoring a knockout were slim, and that he would be hard-pressed to eke out a decision over the awkwardly clever, strong, and dangerous import.

Sugar Ray's prospects became even more desperate when he suffered a severe cut near the end of the ninth round. The between-the-rounds patch-up job proved to be far from adequate. Less than a minute after the start of the 10th round, the cut began bleeding profusely.

With gory rivulets staining his features, Ray indomitably stepped up the pressure. Disdaining his classic style, he moved in aggressively, threw a long right hand that nailed the Englishman as he was backing off, and toppled him. Turpin arose groggily at the count of eight and sagged limply against the ropes as Sugar Ray—the classic stylist suddenly turned tiger—blasted him with a fierce barrage.

Supported by the ropes and refusing to go down, Turpin appeared defenseless under the fusillade. At this point, with less than a minute of the 10th round remaining, the referee halted the fight. He had to do it.

In the quarter-century during which he followed the ring, Ray fought many epic battles. But this was his masterpiece. No champion ever responded more tremendously to a challenge.

Jack Mauls The Bull

By Sam Taub, Contributing Editor

The greatest fight I ever saw? That's a good question. However, my answer is simple.

It was the Jack Dempsey-Luis Angel Firpo heavyweight title match at the Polo Grounds on September 14, 1923. There was drama in the ring, classic, powerful drama. Everything pertaining to the extravaganza was melodramatic. The late Tex Rickard was brought into the picture after a number of other title matches staged beneath Coogan's Bluff were not profitable.

Ticket booths outside the now-razed home of the Giants was a last-minute setup, engineered by Rickard, aided by the late Mike Jacobs. The fight spelled danger to both contestants and some of the spectators. One of the temporary bleachers set up in the outfield collapsed.

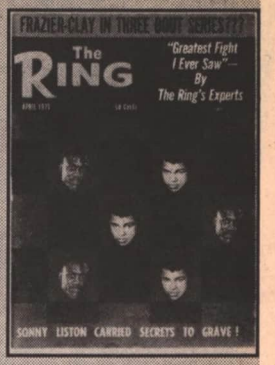
But, ho, the fight! It lasted less than two rounds, but we have a vivid recollection of what happened. Right off the reel Dempsey ran into a right and went to the canvas. He was right up, surprised. Then the "Manassa Mauler" started to bounce the giant from the Argentine to the mat time and again.

The rule forcing a man scoring a knockdown to go to a neutral corner was not yet in vogue. The spectacle was unbelievable. Then came Dempsey's going through the ropes, helped back by a newspaperman. Firpo, strictly a right-hand puncher, couldn't follow through.

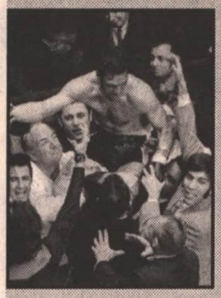
Everyone in the ballpark was screaming when round two started. Dempsey, whose seconds became panicky during the minute's rest and spilled the smelling salts, came out refreshed. Again he started his trip-hammer attack, and after several more knockdowns, stretched Firpo out for the full count.

That's the fight that stands out in my memory. It's the greatest I ever witnessed, and I have seen a thousand. ■

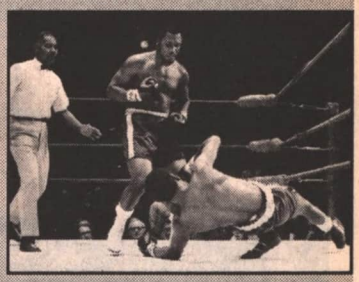
THE RING, April 1971



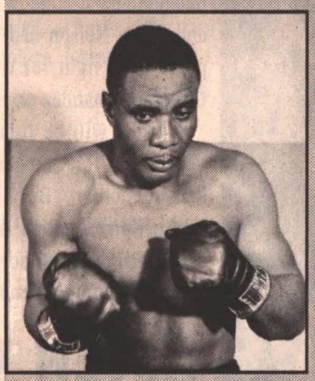
The Cover: Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, or Cassius Clay, as THE RING still called him, seem headed for the ultimate heavyweight showdown. This cover proved prophetic; the rivals would indeed engage in a three-fight series.



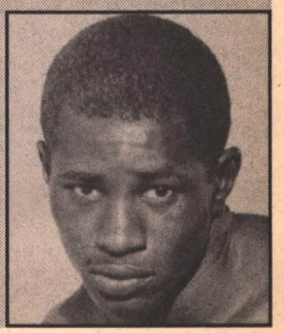
Upset Of Upsets: Bill Reddy reports from ringside in Syracuse, New York, where off-the-board underdog Billy Backus scored one of the biggest upsets of the decade, stopping defending world welterweight champion Jose Napoles in the fourth round. Cuts around "Mantequilla's" left eye cost him the crown.



Another Failure: In November 1970, heavyweight champion Joe Frazier crushed reigning light heavyweight champion Bob Foster in two rounds. As Assistant Editor Jersey Jones reports, Foster was the latest in a long and distinguished line of 175-pound champions who failed to dethrone the heavyweight king.



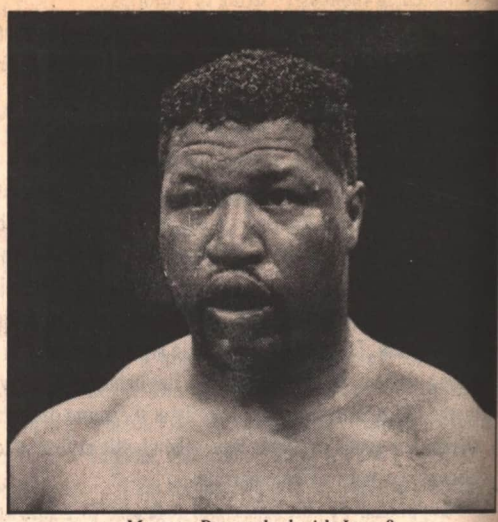
Sonny's Cloudy Life: Jersey Jones examines the mysteries surrounding former heavyweight champion Sonny Liston. Among the questions never satisfactorily answered: What were the dates of Liston's birth and death? What were the circumstances surrounding his death? And did he take a dive in his second match against Muhammad Ali?



Fighter Of The Month: The winner is welterweight contender Adolph Pruitt, who neared the top of the 147-pound rankings by scoring a decision over contender Hedgemon Lewis. With Billy Backus as the newly crowned titleholder, the welterweight division is wide-open. Pruitt seems poised to capitalize.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Mercer: Rematched with Jesse?

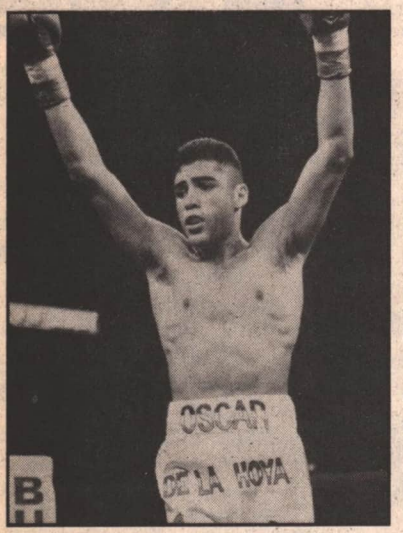
THE REMATCH FROM HELL

Only In Boxing, Part CXVI: They're actually talking about a Ray Mercer-Jesse Ferguson rematch. Unless you've been living in a sensory deprivation tank for the past few months, you know that in February, Ferguson outpointed Mercer, and in July, "Merciless Ray" was arraigned on charges of sports bribery for allegedly offering Ferguson $100,000 to take a dive—*during the fight!* All Ferguson took was the decision, and he was rewarded with a $500,000 payday for a bout with WBA/IBF champion Riddick Bowe. (See "Round One" on page 8.)

"We haven't even talked money yet," Greg Cohen, Ferguson's co-manager, told *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "But it has to be an attractive offer. Mercer needs Jesse more than Jesse needs Mercer."

Since Mercer's indictment, he and Ferguson, neither of whom is considered a contender, have become hot heavyweights, with matchmakers and promoters queuing up for their services.

"Right now I don't know if the rematch will happen," said co-manager Seth Braunstein. "It's not like Jesse doesn't have other opportunities."



De La Hoya: A new timetable

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO ...

When Oscar De La Hoya aggravated an injury to a tendon in his left wrist in July, causing a postponement, if not a cancellation, of a bout with Narciso Valenzuela, co-managers Bob Mittleman and Steve Nelson had to restructure their timetable. 1992 Olympic gold medalist De La Hoya had planned to fight for the title on October 1, probably against WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez on HBO. Now?

"Oscar will be fighting twice in August," Mittleman told THE RING. "We'd like to reschedule Valenzuela for October, then take another bout or two before a title fight. Maybe he fights for the title in February. But I don't think he can make 130 for much longer."

Mittleman added that De La Hoya may challenge IBF champion John-John Molina, and not necessarily Hernandez. Should the golden boy jump to lightweight, expect him to aim for IBF champion Freddie Pendleton.

LISTEN UP

You may have read about Florida junior middleweight Ronald "Winky" Wright in THE RING ("New Faces," September 1993), but we're willing to bet you haven't seen him fight. His low profile aside, Wright is one fight away from a title shot. He'll meet the winner of August's duel between WBA champion Julio Cesar Vasquez and Aaron Davis ... How long will New York City featherweight Kevin Kelley have to wait for a try at the world title? As we went to press, Kelley's September try at WBC champion Goyo Vargas was in jeopardy ... WBC bantamweight champion Jung Il Byun broke his hand during his defense vs. Josefino Suarez. He'll be sidelined for a few months, so in order to crown an interim champion, the WBC has called for a bout between former champions Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (rated second) and Victor Rabanales (rated third). What happened to the top-rated (and ever-patient) Junior Jones? ■

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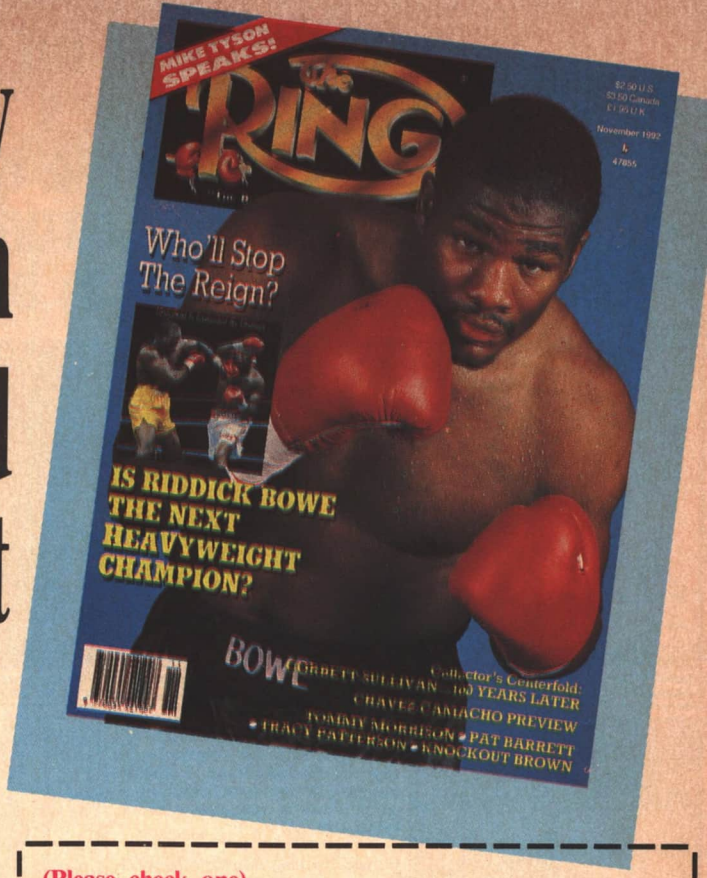

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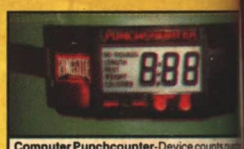

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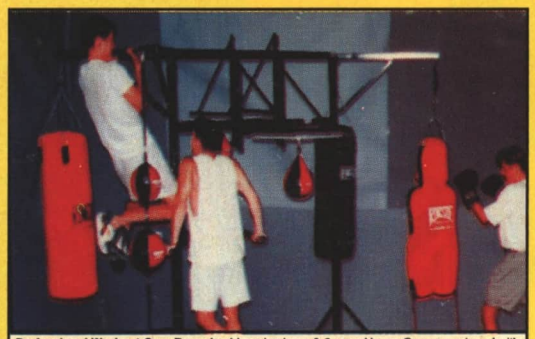

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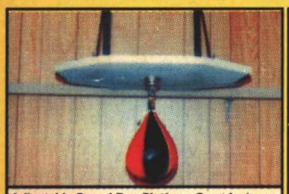

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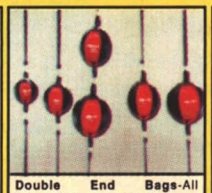

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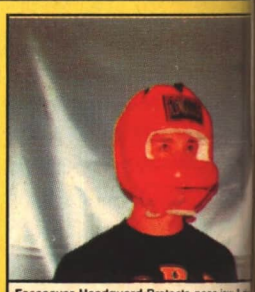

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